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Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Bulgarian Policy Toward Turks

LD2107093389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Jul (SPA)—The chairmanship of the current 18th session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers' meeting expresses its indignation and strong condemnation of the unjust Bulgarian conduct that is detrimental to the rights of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. The communique, issued today, hopes furthermore that the Islamic countries will take a firm position against such oppressive practices and urges fraternal and friendly countries to support and consolidate the just position of the Turkish Government seeking to prompt the Bulgarian Government to sign an agreement protecting the rights of the Muslim Turkish minority.

The following is the text of the statement:

The chairmanship of the current 18th session of the meeting of the ICO foreign ministers; in accordance with its resolutions on the rights of the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria, the latest of which was Resolution 39 issued by the 18th conference of the ICO foreign ministers' meeting held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 13-16 March 1989; it has followed with great concern the oppressive measures and violations of the basic rights of the Muslim minority and the attempts to strip it of its Muslim identity by the Bulgarian authorities, which were expected to protect its citizens' human rights irrespective of race and creed.

The matter has recently resulted in the mass deportation of tens of thousands. They evacuated them from their houses out of hatred and animosity, without paying any consideration to family ties. They made whole families poor, and violated properties, while ignoring international charters and laws and the principles of justice. It has become clear that the matter has taken a serious turn and has become an issue of concern and anger for the international and Islamic communities.

The ICO foreign ministers' chairmanship expresses its utmost indignation and condemnation vis-a-vis the unjust Bulgarian conduct and appeals to fraternal Islamic states, on the basis of their strong ties, to adopt a resolute position so that the human rights that have been violated are recovered by the Muslim sons of the Turkish minority, while their possessions and convictions are safeguarded. The fraternal and friendly countries appeal for support for the just position of the Turkish Republic in its aim to encourage the Bulgarian Government to enter into official negotiations with Turkey that would result in an agreement which would organize voluntary immigration for members of the Muslim Turkish minority, in which human and social considerations are taken into account, would guarantee the rights of the two neighboring countries, and would believe the exacerbated tension between them.

Secretariat Issues Statement

LD2407200489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Mecca, 24 Jul (SPA)—The Secretariat General of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has described the campaigns against the Muslim Turks in Bulgaria as being a flagrant and savage violation of basic human rights. Dr 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif, secretary general of the organization and chairman of the fact-finding committee investigating the position of Muslims in Bulgaria, in a statement made to SPA today said that about 3,500 displaced persons are arriving in Turkey daily. They have been stripped of their ration cards by the Bulgarian authorities. They were compelled to implement the policy of compulsory absorbtion and integration, and prevented from entering mosques. The Bulgarian authorities confiscated their copies of the holy Koran, and forbade them to circumcise their sons, or bury their dead according to the provisions of shari'a.

The secretary general confirmed the displaced Turks' reports about tanks rolling through their villages, their names being changed, being banned from performing their prayers, fasting, and making the pilgrimage, and not being granted the right to reside or work unless they gave up their Islamic beliefs. Dr Nasif stressed that Bulgaria's application of its treaties and decisions relating to the Muslim Turkish minority, and its recognition of these Turks as citizens would enable this minority to exercise its right to citizenship, so that it can, with conviction, carry out its duties vis-a-vis Bulgaria.

The Secretariat General called on Islamic countries, Islamic establishments and chambers of commerce, and Muslim businessmen and investors to take positive steps to immediately halt dealings with Bulgaria if it continues to oppress Muslims in Bulgaria.

The secretary general pointed out that the negative position adopted by the Bulgarian Government and its continuation of its inhumane practices will force the Islamic world to stand, with all means, by their Muslim brothers to remove the injustice that has befallen them and to make their voices heard to the world, which in turn has condemned and deplored those aggressive practices in order to put matters in their true perspective.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Cited on Meetings With Israelis

NC2507093089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jul (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO's International Relations Department,

has declared that the PLO accepts the holding of elections in the occupied territories as a step toward a complete solution but it refuses to consider these elections or their results as a substitute for an international peace conference.

He said that the five permanent Security Council members will meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in September to discuss the Middle East problem.

Abu-Mazin declared that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is willing to meet 'Ezer Weizman, Israel's minister of science and research, anytime, anywhere, secretly or openly. He also said that Arab support is not commensurate with the mission of the intifadah [uprising] and noted that the Palestinian people have lost $2 billion since the beginning of the intifadah.

These declarations came in an interview that Abu-Mazin had last night with correspondents of the Arab news agencies in Tunisia.

At the beginning of the interview, Abu-Mazin stressed that the Palestinian peace offensive, which was approved by the Palestine National Council during its recent session in Algiers, will continue until a final and just solution to the Middle East and the Palestinian issues is reached. He described the Palestinian peace initiative as "a new language" that is in line with the nature of events, the era, and international events. He noted that this initiative has brought support from European, American, and Israeli public opinion for the Palestinian issue. He said that Israel was forced to respond to this initiative, but in its own way, when it proposed the initiative of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to hold elections and followed it with a clarification of the Shamir plan, rendering it useless from the viewpoint of many Israelis, Europeans, and Americans. He added that the PLO has rejected the Shamir plan and said that the notion of elections is acceptable but on condition that they will be free and democratic and linked to a complete scenario for the final solution.

Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian meetings being held in some European capitals, Abu-Mazin said that these meetings aim to exchange views, bring them closer, and attempt to reach common denominators that could possibly constitute a basis for negotiations to be held in the international peace conference. He added that the meeting held in The Hague between PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani and the envoy of Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres was not a direct one but an indirect dialogue which "Peres' envoy denied but we do not deny that it did take place."

Abu-Mazin said that these meetings with the Israelis are merely held to exchange views and that the Israelis who attend them either do not have official positions or, if they do have official positions, say that they attend them in their private capacity. He stressed that the PLO does not consider these meetings to be negotiations.

Regarding 'Ezer Weizman's willingness to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, Abu-Mazin said that the PLO agrees on holding this meeting immediately and that 'Arafat is willing to meet him any time, anywhere, secretly or openly. He added that Weizman retracted his proposal because he thought the Israeli Government would be dissolved following the Likud's amendments to the elections plan. He said that peace is more important than any ministerial position, and if Weizman really wants peace then let him come and hold a dialogue with Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Abu-Mazin told the correspondents that the PLO has called on Israel to show good intentions if it wants to hold the elections in the occupied territories, that is, to prepare the atmosphere for the elections. He referred here to the closed schools and establishments, the daily repression in the detention camps, and the deportation of Palestinians.

Speaking about the PLO's conditions for the elections, he said: We accept free and democratic elections. He added that these are the main features of the Palestinian conditions for holding the elections which have not yet been submitted in detail. He stressed that the question of participation by the Jerusalem inhabitants in the elections is a principal and important demand because the people of Jerusalem vote in Jerusalem and do not go to Ramallah or Bethlehem to vote. He stressed that elections under the shadow of the Israeli gun or under Israel's supervision are unacceptable.

Abu-Mazin stressed that there is no progress in the U.S. position and that U.S. Administration's objection to the Likud's amendments to the elections plan is meant only to prevent the collapse of the plan which could be an American one or was prepared with its knowledge. He added that both the United States and the PLO are eager to continue U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He also stressed that the PLO is satisfied with the European position and that the European statement issued in Madrid is a more advanced position than that of Venice. He said that Europe alone cannot decide to hold the international conference because it needs the approval of the two major powers.

Regarding the Soviet position, he said the Soviet Union is currently holding consultations with France and Britain to coordinate preparations for the international conference.

Regarding the Israeli officials' statements about liquidating the intifadah, Abu-Mazin said Israel is doing all it can to liquidate the intifadah but cannot do so. He noted that the intifadah has become a way of life and will end only when the occupation ends.

Asked about the impelementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions, he said that the PLO propounded two issues before the summit. The first was the issue of coordination among the countries that are concerned with the international conference—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO—but we could not get a unanimous summit resolution on coordination among those five countries and agreed only to intensify coordination among the five. He added that the second issue was the Arab follow-up committee under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II in consultation with Yasir 'Arafat and expressed the hope that this committee will be formed in the very near future.

Replying to another question on Egypt's membership in this committee, he said that the PLO welcomes Egypt's membership because Egypt is an important Arab country for the Palestinian issue.

Call No 43 Warns Against 'Secret' Meetings

JN2407181489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] today criticized the secret Palestinian-Israeli contacts. In its new call, No 43, the leadership directly warned Palestinian figures against holding secret meetings with Israeli officials. It stressed that they should obtain advance approval for such meetings from the Palestinian leadership and report the contents of any meeting held with the Israeli authorities under pressure or trickery.

The intifadah leadership's call urged people to escalate struggle on 26 and 27 July and to strike on 29 and 30 July in solidarity with the detained women and the masses and workers of the Gaza Strip. It also called for a distinctive escalation of struggle against the occupation forces on the days of the fifth Fatah congress, scheduled to be held soon.

Hawatimah Cited on Moscow Visit, U.S. Policy

JN2407200089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 8

[Text] Moscow—AL-ITTIHAD—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said that the U.S.-Soviet talks in June did not reach any positive result due to the rigid U.S. position in favor of Israel, the insistence on Shamir's plan and the election project in the occupied territories, and Washington's rejection of the balanced, comprehensive solution within the framework of the international conference.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD that took place after his Moscow talks, Hawatimah added that a profound and expanded discussion took place on all the current developments on Palestinian territory and in the Arab region and the international position on the Palestine question through a series of discussions with the Soviet leadership, specifically Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department.

Hawatimah pointed out that the Soviet side affirmed to him that the Soviet Union denies all forms of bilateral, unilateral, and partial solutions, which are currently expressed by Shamir's plan. The Soviet Union affirmed its insistence on the comprehensive and balanced solution for the Middle East crisis within the framework of the effective international conference with the participation of the five permament members and all parties to the conflict including the PLO as it is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

He added that Washington is adopting a solution in steps and stages. It insists that the first stage is negotiations between Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israelis to reach an agreement on the stage of autonomy for a period of time of 3 to 5 years. After this, the nature of the next step should be discussed. That is, Washington refuses to define the final solution and insists on partial and unilateral solutions.

The Soviet side affirmed its rejection of these U.S. proposals and indicated its full support for the Palestine National Council's [PNC] resolutions in Algiers and the Palestinian leadership's steps, which are based and dependent upon the PNC resolutions in Algiers.

In these discussions, the two sides pointed out that the Israeli occupation is preparing itself for a new wave of concentrated bloody oppression in the process of liquidating the intifadah [uprising] to be able to return the whole situation in the Middle East to a state of stagnation which prevailed before the intifadah. Thus, the Israeli occupation and the U.S. side will be able to redirect the whole situation in the region toward partial solutions.

PLF's 'Abbas Comments on U.S. Dialogue, Syria

JN2307150489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 27

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-'Abbas, Palestine Liberation Front leader and PLO Executive Committee member, by Muhammad Dasuqi Kan'an in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kan'an] What is your current position on the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

['Abbas] The aspects of the Palestinian course of action constitute a unified whole, and we cannot possibly deal with one aspect and leave the other. We look at the militant process from all perspectives, and we see the raging Palestinian struggle against the enemies—all forms of struggle known by those who fight for their freedom and independence. Political action is absolutely inseparable from these forms of struggle, foremost of which is armed struggle on the grounds that the Palestine question is one of displaced people and an occupation

enemy. Many Arab and international factors interact in this question in a way that makes it impossible for us to continue our march without taking these factors into consideration. However, the basic and decisive factor in achieving the Palestinian goals remains the Palestinian people themselves, supported by the Arab depth. From this premise, we believe that the continuation of the militant process in all its aspects is not contradictory with the political process. Political action complements the militant action and makes it fruitful.

We cannot possibly view the current dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration in isolation from our people's intifadah [uprising] or from the accumulated victories scored by the fighters of the Palestinian people. Nor is it possible to isolate the dialogue from the recent Arab and international changes that produced it, among other things. This current dialogue is searching its way toward the beginnings. I do not consider it dialogue in the full sense of the word; I can briefly term it as "surveillance" by both sides, with each side doing the surveillance from its position. As far as we are concerned, the dialogue is part of the militant tasks of our people and the PLO, aimed at entrenching the PLO's achievements by making the U.S. Administration acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and recognize the PLO, the independent Palestinian will, and the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

These really are our aims of the dialogue. The aim of the U.S. Administration is another question. However, if we proceed from a clear working program, I think there will be no danger in holding the dialogue, except, perhaps, if we assume that the dialogue in itself may be of certain advantage to us. I personally think that the dialogue is a militant process on all fronts, incuding the friendly fronts. We need increasing common understanding between us and our friends and also between us and the institutions and circles that are not classified as friends. Viewpoints, I think, should be made clear, and the dialogue is a must at some stages of the struggle.

[Kan'an] Do you think the dialogue will continue?

['Abbas] So far, the dialogue has been exploring viewpoints, no more and no less. We think this is not an easy task; on the contrary, it needs mobilization of all resources so that the dialogue can be taken to the level and goals we want. We should not forget, however, the traditional position of the United States, and we should never ignore, even for a single moment, that the U.S. Administration, has, up to this moment, been giving the Zionist enemy on the land of Palestine full support and backing. We support the continuation of the dialogue and the PLO's decision in this regard, and we are exerting efforts, together with our friends in the PLO, to achieve the desired progress toward the U.S. Administration recognizing our people's rights, without us abandoning our basic programs and our various forms of struggle. Indeed, we believe that massing the various means of struggle may facilitate the dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Kan'an] After the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the recent Arab summit, what do you think is the possibility of success for the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue?

['Abbas] To start with, the PLO is the leader of the Palestinian people and the party that expresses this people's ambitions. As much as the PLO is respected, the Palestinian people and their struggle are respected. It is therefore not possible to measure what happened in the past and what might happen in the future by the same scale.

The PLO knows exactly where the interest of the national Palestinian struggle lies; it realizes that the establishment of normal relations within the Arab framework is very important. It also realizes that establishing normal relations with the Arab countries surrounding Palestine—Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria—irrespective of the detailed policy of each individual country, is of particular importance. We should think objectively about our relations with these countries in particular, and with the other Arab countries in general.

Our awareness of the importance of these relations, however, should not mean our surrender to this or that regime's logic concerning the nature of these relations. What is required, and what we are fighting for, is a relationship based on mutual respect, common pan-Arab interests, and the national interests of all parts. Within this framework, we believe that the relations between the PLO and Syria should be based on mutual respect, on the grounds of joint national and pan-Arab efforts to achieve the ambitions of the Palestinian people, on the grounds of respect of the independent national Palestinian decision, and, to be more objective, on the grounds of each of us respecting the independence of the national decision of the other.

The recent meeting between brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Hafiz al-Asad was held in an atmosphere of Arab reconciliation. I think that other meetings can be held in the future between Palestinian delegations and any Arab country, including Syria, with a view to promoting our sound relations with these countries.

Regrettably, I personally do not envisage stable Palestinian-Syrian relations in the forseeable future. This is due to a host of considerations, the first of which is that Syria, to date, has not recognized the independent Palestinian state. How can I possibly establish sound relations with one who does not acknowledge my declared policy? We really wish and fight for correct relations between Syria and the PLO. However, we insist that these relations be sound so that they can serve the Palestinian and Arab

ambitions and goals. In this context, I believe that for Syrian-Palestinian relations to bear fruit, they need further dialogue and communications.

[Kan'an] News agencies recently carried a newspaper item quoting 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam as asking some Palestinian elements on the Syrian scene, including the so-called Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF], to rejoin the mother PLO. Was this meant for media, or is it true?

['Abbas] Undoubtedly, the PNSF truly reflects the Syrian political inclinations within the Palestinian framework. I heard about and read this news item, and I believe that this happened because Syria, which long wagered on the PNSF, has found that the PNSF failed to realize the hopes it was established to realize. This project, for which the Palestinian people paid heavily in the form of secessions, divisions, camp war, and bad reputation, neither bore fruit nor found a foothold in the Palestinian, Arab, or international grounds. Syria remained fully convinced that it must take into consideration that the PLO is the leader of the Palestinian people. Therefore, it cannot balance its future political plans without embodying this conviction. But how? And when? This is closely bound with the forthcoming Syrian political decision. If Syria wants to balance its political relations with the PLO in a rational way, then it must make a clear decision regarding the factions allied with it—the so-called PNSF. If, on the other hand, it wants to continue its traditional stand toward the PLO, then, I think, the tools assigned the task of implementing Syria's program that clashes with the PLO must continue. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends Message to Kim Il-song 24 Jul

JN2407174589 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has reiterated the solidarity of the Palestinian people and the PLO with the friendly people of the DPRK. In a message sent today to DPRK President Kim Il-song on the month of international solidarity with the friendly DPRK people, 'Arafat said: While we join the world's forces, which love justice and peace and which voice sympathy with and support for the DPRK people, we are confident that the DPRK people will achieve victory, because their struggle to restore their unity, guarantee their future, and end foreign interference in their affairs is a just and legitimate struggle aimed at achieving stability, security, and peace in your region and the world at large.

On this occasion, Brother Abu-'Ammar expressed his deep satisfaction with developments in friendly and cooperative relations, as well as the joint coordination between the State of Palestine and the DPRK in the interests of the two friendly peoples and just peace in the world.

PLO, Japananese Envoys Hold Talks in Tunis

JN1807174889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], director general of the PLO Political Department, received yesterday at noon the Japanese ambassador accredited to Tunisia at the Political Department's headquarters.

Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral relations between the PLO and Japan, means of developing them, exchanging official visits, and elevating the degree of diplomatic representation. The most important political developments in the international, Arab, and Palestinian arenas were also discussed, especially the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the continuing bestial oppression operations on the part of the Israeli forces—especially after Zionist entity Prime Minister Shamir returned from the United States—and the increasing campaigns of terrorism and collective annihilation against our sons. In addition, there are the deportations of Palestinian citizens from their homeland.

Brother Abu-Ja'far received from the Japanese ambassador a statement issued by the Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman which condemns the deportation operations carried out recently by the Israeli occupation authorities and which demands the return of deportees to their land.

Brother Abu-Ja'far presented a clarification of the PLO's stand on all the proposed and important issues, foremost of which is elections in the occupied territories and the need to hold them in a democratic atmosphere and make them part of the comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question, along with the need to hold the international peace conference on the Middle East to resolve the Palestine question with the participation of the five permament members of the UN Security Council and the presence of all the parties to the conflict, including the state of Palestine's delegation, independently.

Abu-Ja'far also discussed the Palestine National Council resolutions during its extraordinary session in Algiers and the importance of the Palestinian peace initiative. He asked the Japanese Government to use its influence to put pressure on Israel to stop its oppressive measures against the masses of our people and protect them from the annihilation and terrorism campaigns. He affirmed the legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which are the right to self-determination, setting up the independent Palestinian state, and continuation of our people's blessed intifadah [uprising] until liberty and independence are achieved.

Demonstrators Praise Kuwaiti Intifadah Support

LD1907224889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1948 GMT 19 Jul 89

[By Walid Bu 'Abbas]

[Text] Kuwait, July 19 (KUNA)—Hundreds of fasting Palestinians, gathering at the Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait in a show of support for their brethren in occupied Palestine, today poured praise on Kuwait's solid support of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

In particular, they praised H.H. [his highness] the amir for his generous backing of the Palestinian struggle and enthusiastic support of the 19-month old Palestinian intifadah.

"The oppressed Palestinian people pledge to H.H. to continue their intifadah and revolution till attainment of Palestinian rights topped by self determination and establishment of an independent state," the rally said in a cable to H.H. the amir.

Today's rally was in response to a call from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat for a day of fasting in support of the Palestinian intifadah.

The Palestinian community in Kuwait also sent cables to president of the U.N. Security Council, U.N. secretary general and human rights commission protesting Israel's cruel atrocities against the Palestinian intifadah.

The rally held the U.S. responsible for the Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people, chiefly rejection of Palestinian peace initiatives.

Algeria

FLN Delegation's Visit to Libya Recounted

LD2207111189 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Algiers, 22 Jul—At the invitation of the Libyan leadership, a National Liberation Front [FLN] delegation led by Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Central Committee, paid an official visit to the Jamahiriyah which was distinguished by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's reception of Abdelhamid Mehri and his delegation.

The Algerian delegation held a series of political talks with a Libyan delegation led by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

The visit came within the framework of friendly meetings between the FLN and the revolutionary committee. The two countries' experiences, relations between the front and the Revolutionary Committee, and various fields of cooperation were reviewed during these meetings. After a comprehensive analysis of these relations, the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the results achieved in many arenas and noted the significance of such friendly meetings, which provide the opportunity to assess the steps made, outline a practical program, and coordinate in political issues, particularly those concerning peoples and their self-determination. In this context, it was stressed that meetings between popular organizations of all sectors should be encouraged and organized in accordance with the integrative idea behind the unionist approach which provides the main conditions for continuing economic cooperation and strengthening brotherly ties between the two peoples.

Issues concerning the exchange of views at the leadership and grass-roots levels with in the FLN and the revolutionary committees were an important axis of the meetings, which were held in an extremely fraternal and amiable atmosphere.

On Maghreb issues, the two sides stressed the need for continued support for this path through wide popular action in view of the fact that the Maghreb region has made strides toward integrative awareness and that the correct approach was in the efforts made and work to deepen them in a popular way.

The FLN delegation included, in particular, Executive Secretariat members Salah Goudjil, in charge of organization; Boualem Delouci, in charge of external relations; and Mohamed Saidi, in charge of training.

Meetings With Libyan Delegation Open in Algiers

LD2407215289 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Algiers, Nasir [July] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—At noon today in Algiers, the 7th session for the joint meeting between the General People's Committee of [words indistinct] Council of Ministers in sisterly Algeria began.

Attending the opening session were: The secretary of the General People's Committee, Kasdi Merbah the head of the government in sisterly Algeria, the members of the General People's Committee and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algiers and from the Algerian side, the ministers of information, light and heavy industries, energy, public health, irrigation, post, education, construction, public works, scientific research, Algeria's ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah and a number of experts and specialists from both sisterly countries.

In a speech made, the secretary of the General People's Committee praised the unity cooperation existing between both sisterly countries stressing the importance of the unity meetings to accomplish the hopes and ambitions of the one Arab people in accomplishing integration and unity.

Concluding, he expressed hope that the sessions will be sucessful to serve the interests of the Arab people in both sisterly countries.

On his part, Kasdi Merbah praised the efforts exerted on the road of backing and enhancing the prospects of unity cooperation between the two sisterly countries highlighting the importance of the continued meetings of brothers on the road of unity of Arab Maghreb countries as a step on pan-Arab unity path.

In this session, the results achieved by the sectoral committees were discussed and reviewed within the context of the continued efforts by both countries to promote unity integration in various fields.

The secretary and members of the General People's Committee have arrived in Algiers this morning and were welcomed at Houari Boumedienne Airport by the head and members of the Algerian Government and the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in (?Algeria) and the ambassador of Algeria to Great Jamahiriyah.

The secretary of the General People's Committee gave a statement to reporters at the airport explaining that such unity meetings were [words indistinct] promote unity integration.

"It gives us happiness to meet our brothers on regular basis and exchange views on all that respond to the aspirations and hopes of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah, Algeria, and the rest of the countries of the Arab homeland."

He asserted that the exchange of (?visits and) meetings will contribute in building the Arab Maghreb unity structure as a step on the road to the pan-Arab unity.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech on Anniversary of Revolution

NC2207135089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0914 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the closing session of the National Democratic Party congress on the anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution in the main auditorium of Cairo University—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear brothers: I start my speech with my sincere congratulations to all of you for your great efforts during the meetings of the National Democratic Party [NDP] committees before and during this national congress. Your efforts ensured complete and mature proposals on one of our national problems, namely that of unemployment.

I have followed the work of these committees and attended some of their meetings. I was pleased to see that the debates at these meetings were not hasty, and were instead characterized by profound, objective, and serious study of all aspects of the problem from which our society suffers at this stage of the great construction and difficult economic conditions. All of us—government and people—are working to tackle these problems by making the necessary decisions while doing all we can not to increase the burden on the low-income groups among the sons of this people.

It is apparent to all that there is not single economic or a social problem whose components or solutions can be separated from other problems. There can be no solution to the problem of employment without an increase in production. There can be no increase in production without new investment. Investment requires that we create the conditions that encourage it. Creating these conditions is linked to various activities, such as imports and exports, tariffs, etc. All development and construction steps must be rooted in our educational system, which should be in harmony with society's demands for progress.

This is why I have always demanded general agreement among all parties involved in national action: Those in official positions, the arena of popular democratic work, the constitutional institutions, and labor union groupings. I have demanded general agreement on defining our national objectives to be followed by the rallying of all the patriotic forces so that they stand united in a cohesive front to achieve these national objectives. I have always said in my speeches to the citizens that no two persons differ over these objectives and no two persons should ever differ over them.

While addressing your great national congress from this rostrum, I also address myself first of all to all the sons of this great people, to all the political forces and trends in the country, and to all the parties on which our democratic political system is based.

Brothers and sisters, if we take a comprehensive look at the countries of the world, those both near and far, and especially if we go back 10 years, we can establish the following facts:

The first fact is that development and construction policies are no longer based on rigid ideological theories and philosophies which could not be altered in any way and had to be regarded as being handed down from on high. The astonishing technological developments, which are taking enormous leaps forward every day, have greatly changed the objective circumstances in which these economic and political theories developed. I could even say that these enormous leaps forward have created a totally new atmosphere in which the conclusions that existed in the past have been completely overturned. Thinkers in all countries, irrespective of their ideological basis, have discovered that there must be consistency between theory and practice, and this must suit the circumstances of each society and be consistent with the developments of the age. Otherwise, there is backwardness and isolation. To meet the interests of their peoples, they raised the slogans of new development with all confidence and courage, liberated from the effects of the rigid and inflexible restrictions and responding to the requirements of development.

Thus we have seen a free market system emerging in economic structures based on disavowing such a system. We have also seen that the need for social justice has imposed itself on systems based on total individualism, which had ignored the necessary balance between the rights of the individual and those of society.

Perhaps these concrete developments in the economic and social spheres have provided the decisive and practical answer to those who asked: Which economic theory should we apply in our own country, Egypt? Are we a socialist or a capitalist state? Some said that we were proceeding without a program. The practical and decisive answer to all these questions has been provided by concrete developments in systems of which it had been believed that they would not abandon their principles regardless of the circumstances and conditions. The interests of the masses have been placed above inflexible theories. [applause]

The second fact is that no longer can any society live in isolation from the international community, without influencing or being influenced by it. This is because life in this great universe no longer permits iron curtains and walls. Open doors are the way to human happiness. Thus, open-door economic and cultural politics have appeared in recent years, calling for participation in economic and social development to achieve the joint interests of all parties. Economic investment is not absolutely evil and isolation not absolutely good. A progressive attitude will always guarantee the achievement of just distribution which will result in general benefit without undermining independence or sovereignty and without violating the national and cultural

heritage which has been a source of pride to various peoples throughout their long history. In this way too the interests of the masses have been placed above inflexible theories.

The third fact is that the world has passed the stage of being divided into two camps confronting each other in an incessant cold war, starting little wars in numerous parts of the globe, and proceeding with a terrible arms race that saps national resources and energies. The realization has emerged that there will be neither victor nor vanquished in a nuclear war that would destroy humanity regardless of the camp to which it belonged. From this realization grew the sincere efforts to achieve rapprochement between the great powers in order to lay the foundations for global peace, which would allow the resources that would otherwise be squandered in war to be used for the purposes of development and raising the living standards of people everywhere and protecting them from the perils of death and destruction. I believe that international efforts to achieve this end are following their planned course, bolstered by international support from all the peoples who suffered the horrors of World War II and faced the full ugliness of conflict with the instruments of death and destruction and from the peoples who are still suffering from such horrors in numerous volatile regions. Hence, the right of masses to peace has risen above the conflict between camps and the avaricious designs which hide behind opposed systems of government.

The fourth fact is that new democratic traditions of party life and party practices in government affairs have developed in the countries which have adopted Western democracy in its various parliamentary and presidential forms. I believe that these traditions of internal democratic government are a natural reflection of the rapprochement and detente that is taking place among systems of government based on different principles and philosophies. The authority of government can no longer sustain extremism of the right or the left. Both the right and left have become more moderate and the interests of the masses have forced the various blocs to make essential concessions to which they will adhere when governing. This has caused differences among the various political parties to become almost marginal. This moderation, the result of the public interest in development and construction, has made it possible for various parties to cooperate in government coalitions with a collective commitment to foreign and domestic policies. This has caused some constitutional experts to state that elections now are determined more by confidence in those who would implement the announced programs than in the programs themselves which are no longer essentially different from one party to another. Hence, the right of masses to a dignified life and a higher standard of living has again risen above parties and partisanship as a result of the unification of the commitments of governments with regard to domestic and foreign affairs.

The fifth fact is that democracy imposes itself on political systems with its simple yet splendid concepts, which are respect for the right of man to express his opinion and to participate in decisionmaking of his own free will. The implementation of democracy differs from one state to another, according to their situation and conditions and their ancient and modern history. There are no rigid descriptions of democracy. Contrary to the view of many people, it is not a system in which anything, even activities harmful to the public interest or in violation of the rights of others, is allowed.

Democracy is desired by man everywhere. The democratic changes that have actually taken place in some countries were an impossible dream a few decades ago. Every nation tries to make its circumstances agree with the requirements of democracy which are inevitable today in the era of peace and openness. The waves of democracy are connected and flowing. The wheel of development in human and industrial relations is turning and there can be no going back. Economic and social development is no longer separate from political development.

There is another fact, which is that all these international developments for economic progress and raising the standard of living under permanent and just peace were accompanied by practical trends toward economic groupings which remove barriers, activate trade exchanges, and coordinate business practices.

Brothers and sisters, I have explained these facts appearing on the world stage in order to state, as we celebrate the 37th anniversary of the 23 July revolution [applause], that throughout the stages of its government after the revolution, Egypt has not been far from them. The 23 July revolution took place under the unforgettable leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir [applause] first and foremost in order to liberate the national will, achieve social justice, and establish a strong Army that could defend the homeland's sovereignty and integrity. The revolution then turned to establishing democratic rule, which gained legitimacy after revolutionary legitimacy had been established and accomplished its goals for progress and development.

It was natural that the 23 July revolution should face numerous obstacles and challenges. It was a revolution that changed the face of Egyptian society with its decisions to end the monarchy and redistribute land under the agrarian reform law, which liberated the Egyptian peasant from feudalism and turned hundreds of thousands of peasants into landowners. It also protected the rights of wage earning farmers. The revolution also established free education at all stages. The revolution created a new social system which provided all the citizens with equal opportunities for education and knowledge. It also ensured the rights of the working class to work, to pensions, and to health care. The revolution gave the workers and peasants the right to participate in decisionmaking in the various constitutional institutions.

It was inevitable that, during this march, the revolution would come into conflict with numerous opposing forces. This compelled it to adopt extraordinary decisions in some cases to defend the new structure and foster its progress during the stage of change and profound radical transformations. The revolution created a huge industrial base that constituted our security redoubt in the military confrontations we were forced to undertake. This base was also the starting point for every new enterprise in our quest for development.

There followed the great leap forward in building up the Egyptian Armed Forces. [applause] Against these Armed Forces were ranged foreign forces seeking to destroy this lofty and strong structure which became the major shield of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf. Despite what happened and despite the enormous powers which conspired to strike down the Egyptian Armed Forces amid unfavorable international circumstances, the Egyptian Army's heroes, with faith, courage, knowledge, and the highest degree of planning, succeeded with their daring and exceptional sacrifice in achieving the immortal October victory. [applause] Both friends and enemies truly said that the great crossing [of the Suez Canal] was a splendid military miracle.

The Egyptian revolution also contributed to people's liberation movements in numerous parts of the Arab region, in Africa, and in South America. Revolutionary Cairo became the Mecca of liberation and independence movements and the secure refuge of strugglers fighting for liberty and sovereignty. The 23 July revolution made a real contribution in various ways to the success of the people of many nations who sacrificed their blood for the sake of their liberty, independence, and sovereignty. Then, for the first time a third power emerged next to the two superpowers. It was the power of the nonaligned countries which made its presence felt in the sphere of the struggle for peace, the shaping of man, and the quest to build a just international community that would not disregard the right of poor countries to a dignified life and would not violate a human being's right to make his own decisions and determine his destiny vis-a-vis any tyranny or power.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the 23 July revolution was to liberate Egyptian will and ensure the independence of Egyptian decisionmaking. The decision to nationalize the Suez Canal was one of the most courageous decisions in modern Egyptian history. There followed terrible challenges which could not have been faced without revolutionary faith, adherence to principle, and the support of all sectors of the people who demonstrated tremendous national consciousness and placed the homeland's supreme interests above all other considerations. [applause]

The building of the Great High Dam, which protected Egypt against the dangers of drought for many years, is a historic indication of the freedom of Egyptian decisionmaking and of putting the interests of Egypt and its people above everything else at any time, whatever the challenges may be.

We sense all these great events today, brothers and sisters, in order to remember and to always take into consideration, as we live through our history, that the July revolution engaged in great and serious battles imposed on it by the belief in the people's right to freedom, dignified life, and sovereignty over their land and fate.

A stage in the most splendid pages of Egyptian history has ended, and a new stage has begun, reinforcing stability and continuing the way through constitutional legitimacy. In the midst of this new stage, we remember with appreciation and admiration the departed president Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat. [applause] We remember this man, the hero of the war decision, and the hero of the peace decision, and salute, brothers and sisters, his desperate struggle for the liberation of the land through war for the sake of peace, and peace for the sake of development, and then economic openness for the sake of progress. [applause]

Then, brothers and sisters, it was my fate to assume the primary responsibility. [applause] We all had to complete the long, difficult road with full understanding of our domestic situation, our position concerning our Arab nation, and our ties with the friendly states of Africa which stood by us under all circumstances. The starting point was the democratic structure and the mobilization of all capabilities and resources for serious work or the glory of our country and for the benefit of future generations in this homeland.

Then came the normalization of relations with our brothers in the Arab world, culminating in the historic meeting of the Arab League member states in Casablanca. [applause] Similarly, we have developed the best fraternal relations with the sons of the African Continent and maintained sound relations with all countries in the world without exception. Furthermore, Egypt played a pioneering role regarding the issue of peace on the Arab and international levels. I am telling you this so that we may all realize that we are fully responsive to the changes in the world, whether in terms of domestic development in other countries or in terms of the new relations among these countries, in order to promote the drive for peace under increasingly developing economic situtions both in the East and the West.

At this delicate phase of our crucial drive toward development, a pause for contemplation is worthwhile in order to examine the requisites of this phase in terms of deeds rather than words or slogans. This pause for contemplation prompts us, after 8 years of a strenuous struggle for development, to talk about three main topics. The first is the democratic practice, the second is the economic renaissance, and the third is our education system.

Brothers and sisters, there is no single pattern for democratic rule. What one country may choose for its democratic system may not suit the circumstances of another country or the way this country deals with the various

aspects of life. Each nation has its own components and characteristics and selects its own way of organizing the relationship among the authorities that make up the regime. Therefore, constitutions modeled after others without due consideration for the objective circumstances prevailing in the country concerned is no evidence of the existence of democratic rule just because these constitutions have been copied from those of democratic states. A constitution is not only words on paper; it has a spirit as well. The essence of this spirit is the implementation of the constitution's provisions and the observation of its rules in full democratic commitment.

The true meaning of democracy is to rule in the interest of the citizen and not in the interest of the ruler. This is the general criterion. Within this framework, the texts may differ in determining the relations between the popular and constitutional authorities, in accordance with the circumstances of each country.

The experiments that have taken place in Egypt in the last ½ century have demonstrated to me that it is high time for the country to move into a new era of democratic rule. This era should be based on ensuring freedom of expression and practice, respecting each citizen's right to take part in national action, and giving everyone the chance to choose and compare among the various available alternatives. This requires the establishment of a regime based on a multiplicity and diversity of political views and organizations.

Among the most important features of this new era, in my view, is the establishment of the relations between the individual and the community and between one group and another on the basis of social solidarity and justice among all the citizens of Egypt, away from the concept of natural struggle. In this context, there should be no privileges enjoyed by one group at the expense of another, there should be no dictatorship by a specific group over the rest of the community, there should be no favoritism among the citizens unless warranted by hard work, dedication to the supreme national interests, and abstention from misdeeds and shortcomings.

From this premise, brothers and sisters, I call for the enrichment of the democratic practice throughout the constitutional and political institutions. This can only be achieved by positive conduct, a sincere contribution, and energetic involvement in the fields of public action through study, out of a sense of national responsibility. But for people to resort to shouting and high-sounding speeches instead of working and contributing, or to deliberately falsify the will of the masses and their desires by fabricating priorities that have no foundation or echo in the political street, is something that is unrelated to democracy or national action. [applause] All these matters need our cooperation in order to be remedied, if we sincerely wish to consolidate the democratic edifice and enable the democratic practice to play an effective and positive role in contributing to decision-making. We do not wish to move within the vicious circles that parliamentary life in Egypt has experienced since its inception 65 years ago. The consequences of these are still afflicting us today.

You can see for yourselves, as I pointed out in the first part of my speech, that the gap in the fundamental differences between the various parties in several democratic countries has narrowed, due to a commitment by all to the public good and the supreme national interests. Deputies duly elected by the people in these countries are keen to represent the interests and the desires of the voters, regardless of their partisan affiliations and beliefs, because this is the exact meaning of the representation of the people. But to use the parliamentary seats to serve personal ends that do not correspond to the people's interests is something that constitutes a flagrant violation of the people's authorization, if it is not a breach of trust by any standards. [applause]

Ever since I assumed power I have been calling for efforts to be cemented and ranks to be unified in Egypt in order to establish a firm national confrontation of the problems obstructing our course. We all, supporters or opponents, majority or minority, suffer from these problems. The overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people must take part in this confrontation so that it may become effective and comprehensive. From this rostrum, I repeat my call to all parties and to all vocational and trade groupings to unify their ranks in order to achieve unity of work and, consequently, national objectives. [applause]

We do not talk about national objectives in general, obscure, and unspecific terms, nor do we cite them in slogans that do not cohere with the facts of our lives. Rather, we talk about these objectives in a specific context which we are aware of in our daily lives. I have said, and I repeat, that we have the goal of defending stability; the goal of increasing production and providing food and clothing by Egyptian hands, efforts, and creation; the goal of invading the desert and doubling the extent of our agricultural land; the goal of ridding the adminstration of the government and public sector of stifling complications and red tape [applause]; and the goal of reforming education and raising the standard of culture in Egypt in a manner compatible with the challenges facing us and commensurate with the progress attained by many countries whose conditions are not much different from our own.

These, brothers and sisters, are the national goals around which we must rally so that we may achieve them through harmony and cooperation and not through fighting and conflict. [applause] I still believe that there is a chance to conduct a serious dialogue between the parties over these issues which require unity of effort, broader agreement, and less dispute and opposition.

Before I turn to the issue of economic development, there is one thing that I have to mention as I have repeatedly done before. I have a duty to drive this point home. The

most serious issue facing this country on the economic scene is the staggering population increase. You may think you have heard enough about this subject; I will have to keep hammering at this point, however, because it is the most serious threat to this country.

We are trudging along all right now. We are making tremendous efforts for economic reform. But human procreation is simply dwarfing industrial and agricultural production. Look—we are bringing 1.3 million infants into the world every year. I am not speaking just of the general concept of population control. On the personal level, a citizen should think of his income and decide accordingly on the size of his family. He should think of his duty to provide a good education and decent life for his children, not just bring them into the world to become delinquents and runaways. This is ridiculous.

Sometimes I sit and think of the figure of 1.3 million that we add to our population every year. We will need schools for these children. How are we going to get the money for that? How we are going to feed, clothe, and house these newcomers? It is hard, almost impossible. You know how much you earn. It is not difficult for you to see that the population increase is way ahead of the increase in incomes. The population increase is undermining the fruits of our strenous attempts at development. Had the population increase taken place at a lower rate, the development which has taken place over the past 7 or 8 years would have brought tangible prosperity to this country. We could have avoided many troubles and incurred fewer debts.

How are we going to provide those 1.3 million newcomers with jobs? The government cannot find jobs for them. [Shouts of: "The desert, Mr President, the desert"] The desert is all yours, go ahead and cultivate it as you please. [Indistinct remarks by audience] Go ahead and cultivate it. Instead of telling me about the desert, go ahead and regulate the size of your family. Be reasonable and you will be able to live.

In Luxor I once met a police sergeant who said: I need an apartment, Mr President. I asked him how many children he had, and he said 13. My God. I said: What you need is an apartment block. If each of you needs a whole apartment block to yourself, how can we go about it? Not even in a thousand years will we be able to build them. We simply do not have the funds, let alone the building capacity.

[Indistinct shouts] Yes, we all can trust in God, but God said: Do your duty and trust in me, he did not say: Fool around... [Mubarak is interrupted by indistinct shouts]

I believe it has become clear that we are devoting all our energies and efforts to increase agricultural and industrial output. We are using the best methods we have and are exerting our utmost efforts to obtain the necessary money to make a tangible improvement in the quality of Egyptian products. We feel that the ground has been prepared for a big leap within a few years to increase our production. We have been working to provide the right atmosphere for a leap forward.

I believe that we have provided the correct atmosphere for this purpose with the issuance of a new investment law, which has eliminated many obstacles and impediments experienced in past years. In this law, we set up one single authority with all the necessary powers to issue licenses so that no one can tell me that they have to go here and there for endorsements.

We have removed many obstacles, so that we may begin a new phase, and decrees have been issued to encourage saving. We also have taken numerous measures, along with fraternal Arab countries and friendly states, to encourage their public and private institutions to invest in production fields in Egypt. What remains is to obtain the maximum benefit from this favorable climate. We must increase coordinated effort between the state's official agencies and the public institutions to achieve this goal. Each one of us must aim to increase production, so that accomplishment in this respect may be the measure used to assess each individual's performance, as well as the means by which others judge his fulfillment of his commitment toward the the homeland and society.

We have achieved good results in agricultural production, land reclamation, and desert cultivation. If anyone says we have not invaded the desert, to him I say: Go out and around and you will see that agriculture has spread enormously in the desert in the last 5 years. I witness this, witness it every week. Yes, the desert has been cultivated. But those of you sitting in your offices are telling me about desert cultivation. Why do you not go out there? The desert is out there and there are people who have cultivated remote desert areas and built homes there.

Agriculture needs a long period of time and requires you to work. You cannot expect water to flow and seeds to be sown at the touch of a button. No, this needs work, and nothing can be done without an effort.

Furthermore, auxiliary industrial investments, especially in the new cities, confirm that we are pursuing the correct course toward increased and diverse production and the provision of jobs for hundreds of thousands of Egypt's sons. The same thing applies to tourist projects and their growing resources.

However, we still are seeking to double what we have achieved in this respect. We believe that there is still more room for agricultural and industrial expansion and for the absorption of the latest technology to raise the standard of production and services in line with our goals of development and progress.

As regards our educational system, it is obvious that there is no renaissance without education, and renaissance does not come about haphazardly. There can be no renaissance without education and no progress without keeping pace with advanced technology in all walks of life.

The big countries which seek economic reforms today depend basically on procuring whatever is new from technologically advanced countries, without distinction between capitalist and socialist countries or between Eastern and Western technologies. Scientific advancement has become an international phenomenon, the effects and fruits of which are spreading to all parts of the world.

The progress of a nation is now being measured by the extent of its advancement in this field. I believe you heard the U.S. President talk about education and the promotion of education when he first took office. We are working for the promotion of education, but we need to consolidate efforts in this respect and this requires money. Therefore, the most imporant requirement of progress at this historic turning point is that our educational system be based on the capability of our sons to absorb modern technology and use it in the service of production.

Importing technologically advanced equipment for various production sites and services does not mean that we should not prepare our youth to pursue these scientific techniques which are being adopted in every area in all the developed countries. This requires a broad new comprehensive examination of the task which the scientific institutes should perform in all specializations to ensure that there are new generations of graduates equipped to handle the requirements of manufacturing and service industries.

We have made a start on this new road, but the process should expand and spread quickly and through careful planning that will identify our need and present clear-cut options. Since the 23 July revolution, we have been trying to build universities to accommodate large numbers of students. Today we are also building institutes to accommodate large numbers of students. We must offer as many incentives as we can to encourage the young to enroll in these institutes. This is what all the big and developed countries have done. Our students enter universities abroad, saying they want to work as university professors. The whole world is now introducing technical education because university fees have become quite exorbitant. Even the Soviet Union is currently thinking of introducing university fees. This does not mean that we are thinking of cancelling free education. I tell you that university education is becoming a bit of a luxury. But scientific education is what is needed nowadays more than anything else. All the equipment that we purchase, including computers, highly specialized technicians. This is what all the big and developed countries have done to meet the needs of development. The objective of education in these countries is no longer only to obtain a university certificate. In Egypt we have marriage certificates only. The objective is now to prepare young people capable of taking part in the scientific process to increase production, improve its quality, and raise the standard of services.

If we achieve this radical improvement in Egypt, together with careful planning to ensure that the scientific research institutes in our country are able to serve the development of agriculture and industry in both the public and private sectors, we will then be able to say that we have chosen the right course. Truly, I am happy to visit scientific research centers. I have found that private sector factories seek scientific advice from the scientific research centers to help them improve their production.

We all know that the major industrial institutions in the developed countries allocate huge budgets to scientific research. It is also a historical fact that the scientific changes have been taking place at a much greater pace than political changes because the economy is the cornerstone of progress. This concept has been strengthened lately, now that political action is focusing on serving economic action. It is rightly said that science governs the world today.

Brothers and sisters, today I am concentrating on three topics: democracy, economic development, and the education system as an instrument of progress. The central element in progress is man. Progress would be hard to achieve without a population that is capable of understanding the nature of development and innovations. Unless the public, at home and at work, adheres to what I call the ethics of progress, all our efforts in this regard will be futile.

As I said before, regardless of how strict our application of the law is, the law alone is not enough to protect society. The ultimate responsibility for protecting society lies with the family and the educational institution.

Of course, punishment of malefactors is necessary. It is the purpose of the law to protect society and specify its prohibitions and restrictions. But unless the members of a community have respect for the law, that purpose will be defeated.

It is necessary to modernize the economy, achieve development, and raise living standards. But it is the dedication of the public to their work, in the fields and the factories, that governs the success of any economic efforts. It is the amount and quality of our efforts that will ultimately decide our future. The difference between devotion to work and absenteeism is the difference between success and failure.

It is relatively easy to refurbish the educational system, but this does not abolish the need for the teacher and the professor to act as a role model for the students and instill into them a sense of belonging to their schools and educational institutions. It is the individual who ultimately sets the standards of social behavior.

There is a need for concerted efforts on the part of the media, the parties, and all other democratic institutions to enhance the standards of public behavior in this country. The elimination of obnoxious social habits is above all a political responsibility. Political parties, in all democratic nations, provide services for the young and attempt to educate them on how to strike a balance between their rights and responsibilities and on how to take their first steps in the service of society.

Politics should be more than an exercise in party maneuvers, verbal one-upmanship, and deceptive rhetoric. The true task of politics is to promote progress and encourage the public to participate in this endeavor. Politics should be devoted to the achievement of the ultimate promise of democracy; namely, the protection of the interests of society as a whole, the improvement of the standards of living of its members, and the provision of a decent life for citizens who want to work and earn an honest and worthwhile living.

Brother citizens. I have sought throughout the past years to establish as the basis for national action that any action abroad must basically be directed at serving internal national objectives. Otherwise, the equation becomes unbalanced, priorities are out of order, and we are unable to distinguish between essential matters of vital importance for the country and transient, peripheral matters. Without this active role at the international level, the state would not be in a position to take advantage of developments that will in turn increase its ability to tackle domestic problems, particularly in the economic field. Thus every foreign action we undertook in the past was aimed at serving our main objectives of development, stability, and peace. This formula has been applied without exception to all countries and all international and regional groups. International norms accept these criteria in the eighties, particularly in view of the profound developments that have taken place in the past decade on the international stage in the political and economic fields. The past decade has seen changes which will have long-term effects on the substance and form of international relations throughout the remainder of this century and the first part of the next.

It is within this framework that Egypt exerted its utmost efforts in the past few months to help create the conditions to prepare for Palestinian-Israeli peace talks on a comprehensive and just settlement of the problem that would eliminate its root and open the door to creative coexistence between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Developments have taken place in the Israeli arena recently which have complicated the situation to a great extent and have put new obstacles in the way of the start of the peace process. Thus the Israeli Government must openly say where it really stands following these developments, so we can all be aware of the real, official, and dependable position.

If we move to the situation in Lebanon, we will find that the tripartite Arab committee formed at the Casablanca summit is exerting persistent efforts to start the implementation of a program that would lead to an end to the Lebanese tragedy as soon as possible. We declare our full confidence in this committee's ability to perform the task given it by the summit effectively and decisively. The other parties must help it do so.

Regarding the stabilization of the cease-fire on the Iraq-Iran front and its transformation into a permanent and stable peace, we hope that the Iranian leadership will adopt a stand that will make it possible to achieve this goal as quickly as possible. This is because no one can predict what may happen if a comprehensive agreement is not reached, an agreement that outlines to both parties their mutual and specific commitments as a strong basis for organizing the relations between the two countries in the future.

Another issue that occupies much of our attention is the stabilization of the situation in fraternal Sudan. We want its beloved people to be able to confront the problems that obstruct and threaten their march. We declare that stand by this people [applause] which is the twin of the Egyptian people in its endeavors to achieve stability, strengthen national and regional unity, and start implementing economic reforms and development programs, and we hope that the genuine efforts and sincere line of the new Sudanese leadership will succeed. The Sudanese leadership has proved that it is qualified to extricate Sudan from the impasse which has negatively affected all aspects of life in this fraternal country.

Brothers and sisters, on the anniversary of the historic July revolution, the image in our minds is of the noble Egyptian youths who fearlessly led the way and sacrificed their lives for the sake of their country's progress. This was the ultimate sacrifice for Egypt after desperation had spread among the people as conditions deteriorated, democracy was undermined, and darkness prevailed. Yes, the revolution, throughout its life, committed mistakes. Historians differ in their estimate of these mistakes and in analyzing their causes and results. The mistakes were later corrected and conditions rectified. Peaceful evolution toward democracy took place. We triumphed in the battles of war and won the battles of peace. We fought the battles of development with all our strength.

However, no one disagrees that Egypt's leaders before and after the July revolution and since the people began the struggle for independence and ending the occupation, gave Egypt their utmost with sincerity and faith. Each one of them, with the support of this people, performed his role under the prevailing circumstances and within existing resources. The struggle of the people is a chain and a book of several chapters. The judgment after that will be left for history.

The peace struggle is more difficult than the war struggle. Now that we have our sovereignty and the freedom to make our own decisions, the development struggles demands unceasing sacrifices, unshakable faith, inflexible tenacity, and unlimited self-confidence. However, the indispensable basis for achieving all this is the unity

of ranks in the face of the national goals and a collective commitment to achieve fully these goals as soon as possible. This can only be achieved through consistent hard work in all fields, by work which gives before it takes and does not lack independent thought, a strong arm, or strong enthusiasm; by work which seeks harmony and perfection no matter how strenuous the effort or how difficult the task; by work which expresses devotion and affiliation to the greater society in which the individual cannot be separated from its movement and cannot evade his responsibilities to raise society to a better standard.

What benefits the whole family benefits any member of that family. Throughout history, the Egyptian family was known for its cohesion throughout all generations. This family has been supported by close relationships in which the young respect older members of the family, in which the weak receive the support of the strong, and in which chaste feelings prevail at all times.

Thus, the Egyptian family maintained this genuine character which emanates from religion and tolerant and lofty traditions at a time when families disintegrated in a large number of societies which had been invaded by materialism and lacked spiritual life.

Our Egypt is our greater family and we do not wish any one or some of us to be dependent on this greater family or to be selfish and care only about himself. We do not wish any one of us to be a dissonant voice or to evade work.

We must observe and analyze thoe countries that have achieved progress and a dignified life for their peoples. Progress did not knock on their doors while they were asleep. Instead, they charged through closed doors and worked hard, devoting all their energy to work. Thus they created new spheres of hope, achieved magnificent tasks in record time, pursued their path, enriched their life, and overwhelmed world markets with unparalleled production. This production has been the fruit of a sincere mind by which they reached perfection.

We have paved the way and created a favorable climate and we have no alternative to stepping up our effort and work for we are people who take pride in honest money, gains, and life.

Idleness, laziness, and reluctance to work are abominable practices which we should detest. Any maneuver to evade duty is an abominable practice detested by our noble Egyptian society.

Any deliberate distortion of the integrity of our course and straightness of our line is the utmost evil which is unacceptable by any measure. Self-examination and introspection are needed before anything else. This is the most difficult struggle and test.

If we suffer at this stage as a result of a shortage of resources and their inability to meet our needs, there is no solution except to give more than to receive, and there is no treatment except to spend every minute of our lives in what is beneficial and fruitful and to redouble our work to make up for lost time and effort and to avoid moving in a vicious circle without progress. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, honest and fruitful work is the country's and people's song. It is the song that pleases our ears as we reap the fruits. It is the law which we abide by and accept without a need for documents or legislation enforcing it. It is a demand on us for self-examination. It is the cure for every sickness which obstructs or slows our steps on the path of progress.

Achieving progress demands from us all the kind of work that satisfies our consciences and ignores trivialities, avoids maneuvers aimed at forming axes, and disregards differences in views, methods, or means. These must not lead some to disagreements which defame our civilization, distort the glowing democratic image, and undermine the sovereignty of the law as regrettably has happened in some places.

Last and not least, I reiterate the call for unity of the ranks and unity of action around our national goals which will serve in political action as an example and beacon for the various fields of public work and in our lives as as a statement of our attachment to Egypt and its interests before any other consideration.

I pray to almighty God to grant us patience, guide us toward a straight road, deepen our faith in the greatness of His ability and the wisdom of His will, and give us strength to enable us to achieve what is good for this country and make life better. May God grant us success. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Mubarak on OAU Post

NC2407131189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] This afternoon, President Husni Mubarak met with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. They discussed the African summit agenda and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

In Addis Ababa today President Mubarak also recieved Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of foreign liaison and international cooperation [title as heard]. Al-Talhi said after the meeting that he had given President Mubarak a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as well as the colonel's greetings and congratulations to the president on his chairmanship of the OAU. Al-Talhi remarked: We are pleased that President Mubarak has assumed this responsibility.

Commenting on Egyptian-Libyan relations, he said they are progressing in an excellent manner, in accordance with the decision made by President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi at their recent meeting in Casablanca.

Foreign Ministry Director Meets PLO Official

NC2407140189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1238 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Mahmud Jum'ah, director of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry, met this afternoon with Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and PLO charge d'affaires, in Cairo. The two officials discussed recent developments in Gaza, the deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories, and the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive measures against the Palestinians.

Following the meeting, Al-Qidrah said that the town of Rafah is in a critical economic situation verging on famine as a result of the siege which the occupation authorities have imposed on the town for the last 4 days. The occupation authorities are preventing food supplies from entering the town, he added.

Al-Qidrah said that the Palestinian people are fully aware of the Israeli designs and are capable of unmasking the Israeli tactics. He was referring to a new method Israel is adopting to break the unity of the Palestinian ranks in the occupied territories in which the Israeli authorities distribute faked statements attributed to the leaders of the intifadah [uprising] and to the Palestinian popular army.

Columnist Faults Government's Sudan Policy

JN2307191689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 3

[Article by Dr Ibrahim Dasuqi Abazah: "We Beg Sudanese Forgiveness"]

[Text] The Egyptian Government has given 20,000 tons of petroleum as aid to the Sudanese coup leaders. The government is acting within its right to extend assistance and aid to friendly countries. However, it has no right to handle public money free of controls or restrictions.

We seem to have a different approach altogether. The government does not seem to draw a distinction between public and private money. Nor does it differentiate between spending on public health and foreign aid. Indeed, the government seems to have relieved itself of the duty of sounding out the parliament on any expenditures, even if it means selling the High Dam to the Ethiopian Government.

Government aid and grants to friendly nations are supposed to be subject to special rules set out in fiscal laws. It is a cardinal rule that the government should clear the matter with parliament, which in turn debates the proposed aid in order to decide whether there is a good political and economic case for going ahead with it.

By what right has the government decided to extend grants and assistance to the junta 5 minutes after it seized power in Sudan? And who has sanctioned the measure?

I am aware, however, that we live in a country of wonders in which there may exist a carte blanche entitling the president to act on such issues at his discretion without reference to any party!

The government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi persistently approached Egypt for military assistance citing a bilateral joint defense pact, but the request fell on deaf ears.

The former Sudanese Government also sought some food and financial aid, and the Egyptian Government was equally unresponsive. In the meantime, Sudan was afflicted with famine and plagues and experiencing the worst times in its modern history—bequeathed by the ruinous regime of President Numayri. On humanitarian grounds, we were supposed to offer at least token assistance to the brotherly Sudanese people. But all our government did was turn its back on Sudan under the pretext of differences with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Our government stepped up an anti-Al-Mahdi drive on the plea of his anti-Egypt posture, eventually adopting an extremely hostile stand which remains inexplicable! The sin which Al-Mahdi seems to have committed was his condemnation of Egypt's failure to come to his country's aid in the war of the south and his calling into question the usefulness of the joint defense pact with Egypt. However, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi did Egypt no wrong and uttered nothing to offend its president. Nor did he utter any abusive or offensive language against Egypt or its president in the manner an Arab [leader] did until recently!

Thus the question arises as to why all this hostility and the failure to help the Al-Mahdi government? Can differences between governments be grounds for a breach of defense treaties and refusal to comply with humanitarian aid requests?

Only in the wretched Arab world does this foolish practice prevail. A mere disagreement between any two governments is enough to disrupt whatever common interests there may be between them. We would have hoped our government would rise above such practices and distinguish between a governement it antagonized and a people with whom we have shared interests. Why should the Sudanese people be made to suffer as a result of this? And why should an offer of assistance and aid be subject to rulers being in the good books of Cairo?

The Egyptian Government has uncovered its true feelings toward Sudan and demonstrated that for Cairo the matter was more a question of collusion between governments in power than one of brotherhood between two peoples. Sudan's civilian democracy was not to the liking of the Egyptian Government or any other Arab despotic government. Such a regime seemed to have posed the greatest threat to Arab dictatorships and encouraged regional democratic forces to press on with their struggle against them. It was this very point that triggered the crisis between the Egyptian and Al-Mahdi's governemnts to the point of Cairo withholding relief aid when floods swept Sudan, destroyed its crops, and displaced thousands of its people. Rather than sit idly by as a passive onlooker, Egypt was duty-bound to make available whatever it could by way of assistance to help Sudan cope with these natural disasters.

Thankfully, given keen political awarness, the people of Sudan are aware of the true picture and distinguish between our government and people and know for sure that this kind of behavior does not reflect the true brotherly sentiments the Egyptians harbor for the Sudanese people. We hope our Sudanese brothers will regard these words as consolation for the tragedy that democracy has suffered at the hands of military men. We are confident that this great people, who have traditionally made a comeback to teach junta men a lesson, will rise again and teach the coup leaders a lesson we hope will be the last in a free, independent Sudan.

Professors Assail Government Judicial Practices

JN2307201589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
22 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[By Majdi Hilmi and Muhammad Abu-Musa]

[Text] University professors have warned the government of the dire consequences of further falsifying the will of the nation and flouting the ruling of the judiciary. The professors declared their support for the statement issued by the cassation court chaired by Chancellor Yahya al-Rifa'i. The statement deals with immunity of the judiciary system and stresses the need to respect and implement its rulings. The professors further condemned the Interior Ministry's violations of UN-issued human rights agreements and conventions and provisions of Egypt's Constitution.

The university teachers also criticized the arbitrary arrest of thousands, their incarceration in lockups and prisons, and their mistreatment and torture under emergency laws. The professors invoked medical reports and publications of international bodies, particularly an Amnesty International report released last May. They emphasized that the report is an indictment of the government and called on President Mubarak to personally issue instructions on the need to respect the human rights of the Egyptian individual and to desist from arbitrary arrests and torture at police stations, prisons, and detention centers. The professors renewed a demand for the abrogation of emergency laws, which they stressed are seriously detrimental to social stability, investment, and economic development in the country.

The 46th general congress of the clubs of the Egyptian universities' faculty was held the evening before yesterday at the University of Alexandria. The congress' recommendations hailed the persistance of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] until the attainment of Palestinian self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions. The congress condemned Israel's criminal attacks against the Palestinian people and our sanctities in the occupied territory. The congress denounced Israel's racist policies toward the Palestinian people, urging the international community to take a stand toward the terroristic, criminal call by Israel's leaders for the assassination of Palestinian struggler Yasir 'Arafat.

The congress called for the speedy issuance of the law regulating the affairs of the universities. It also urged Education Minister Ahmad Surur to take such action as would promote this goal. The congress also stressed the need for a new student bill of rights that meets the democratic spirit of the unviserity students and expressed its solidarity with the students on that score.

Mauritania

Expulsion of Blacks Denied; Taya To Skip Summit

AB2307195689 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT
23 Jul 89

[Text] Nouakchott, July 23 (AFP)—Mauritania denied Sunday [23 July] that it had ever sent people other than Senegalese back to Senegal after violence broke out in April and added that there were still 25,000 Senegalese refugees on its own soil, in a Foreign Ministry statement.

A reliable source, meanwhile, said that President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya would not attend next week's summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa, where the conflict with Senegal is likely to figure high on the agenda.

Senegal has accused Mauritania's Moorish government of expelling its own black citizens since clashes betweeen Moors and black Africans in both countries left at least 200 dead in April and led to an international airlift in which 67,000 people were repatriated.

Mauritania's Foreign Ministry said in its statement, however, that "it had at no time" done such a thing and added that all Senegalese expelled had been sent home "at the express request of the Senegalese authorities."

In Addis Ababa early Sunday, the OAU Council of Ministers preparing for the summit due to open Monday, called in a draft resolution for a commission to be set up to help the OAU's acting chairman, Moussa Traore, in his mediation between the two governments.

Colonel Traore, president of Mali, is trying to settle the dispute which has since the clashes focussed mainly on the border along the Senegal River. Dakar argues that the border should be on the right bank of the river, where French colonists put it, instead of along the middle.

The Mauritanian statement also accused Senegal of trying to minimise the work done by Mali, which is one of three members of the Senegal River Valley Development Organization with Senegal and Mauritania, to settle the dispute and pointed out that several other African leaders were helping.

Senegalese President Abdou Diouf arrived late Sunday in Addis Ababa, where Senegalese officials said they were relieved that the OAU resolution referred to "fundamental principles of the (OAU) Charter, including the inviolability of frontiers existing at independence."

Speaking in Gabon late Saturday, Mr. Diouf said that if the OAU "can't find" a "definitive solution" to the problem, he would officially refer the dispute to the United Nations. A Mauritanian source said there was "no difficulty there."

Government 'Statement'

AB2407174289 Dakar PANA in English 1720 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 24 July (AMP/PANA)—Senegal is responsible for the "inexact" declaration that no progress has been made in the mediation of OAU Chairman Moussa Traore in the dispute between Senegal and Mauritania, an official Mauritanian statement has said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement on Sunday said this declaration was in the letter of 20 July addressed by the Senegalese Government to the UN Security Council on the dispute.

The statement said that without this mediation and the interventions of several brotherly heads of state, especially President Mobutu Sese Seko (Zaire), Gnassingbe Eyadema (Togo), Felix Houphouet-Boigny (Cote d'Ivoire) and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, no contact would have taken place between the disputing countries.

Neither in Rosso, a Mauritanian border town, nor in Bamako would the two parties have met in view of the gravity of the situation, if the interventions had not limited the conflict, the Ministry said, adding that, on the other hand, there would have been dangerous developments. [sentence as received]

It said that the meeting between Traore and Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya led to the immediate release of 10 Senegalese fishermen who were taken in Mauritanian territorial waters.

The statement said that the Senegalese notice to the Security Council did not conform with the OAU timetable on the movements of the populations.

Contrary to the allegations of Senegal, Mauritania received on its territory thousands of deported Senegalese adding the Mauritania deported to the neighboring country only Senegalese citizens following the expressed request of the government.

Following the steps taken by one friendly country, the statement said, Mauritania has since over a month stopped the repatriation of Senegalese who were still residing in Mauritania and their situation has started to become normal.

It said that this was not the case with Mauritanians living in Senegal who, it noted, could not carry out any activity in Senegal, especially in Dakar.

"The last declaration of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf in Paris by its intransigence, and threats of engulfing the whole region in a flare up has again put under question the current modus-videndi. It has caused disquiet among Senegalese who still live in Mauritania, leading to departure of some and necessitating the repatriation of others as a security measure."

The Mauritanian Government underlined that this Senegalese initiative constituted a new step that could "divert attention from the attacks on the property of Mauritanians living in Senegal and the massacres and physical attacks of which this people were victims".

The international community should be concerned with the fate of thousands of Mauritanians remaining in Senegal to ensure they return to Mauritania, the statement said.

French Provide Aid for Senegalese Repatriates

AB2407154289 Paris AFP in French 1729 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 23 Jul (AFP)—France has given Mauritania aid in the form of drugs, food, and clothing worth over 10 million ouguiyas (more than Fr [franc] 800,000) as part of an operation to resettle persons repatriated from Senegal. French Ambassador Pierre Lafrance last Saturday handed over the gift to the permanent secretariat of the Military Committee for National Salvation. During the presentation ceremony, Mr Lafrance spoke of France's increasing assistance to Mauritania.

Sudan

Information Minister Interviewed on Priorities

JN2107123089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 18 Jul 89 p 14

[Interview with Information Minister 'Ali Shummu by Shakir al-Jawahiri in Khartoum; date not given]

[Exerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Jawhari] How true are the reports that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] includes members loyal to former President Ja'far Numayri and Islamic elements?

[Shummu] In my dealings with the RCC members and the government, I have not felt that. There are many rumors that the revolution is an extension of the May [coup which was led by Ja'far Numayri], that it is an Islamic revolution, and that members of the RCC are members of the Islamic Front. There is also some who talk about an Egyptian connection in what has taken place.

All this talk is unfounded. I believe it is a national revolution that took place following certain circumstances. It proposed certain ideas, which may agree with some parties and disagree with others. However, these ideas are not entirely similar to those of a previous regime, and they are not a political expression of an existing political trend. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Do you regret the fact that you remained in office during the Numayri regime until the end?

[Shummu] I like to say that I do not regret this because it is hypocrisy to regret and continue in office. A man may have certain convictions that are not necessarily compatible with those of the regime for which he works. There is always room for differences of opinion. On the whole, I am not at all sorry for working with Numayri until the end. I say this publicly. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] In a published statement, the RCC chairman welcomed the possibility of former President Ja'far Numayri's return to Sudan as was the case with former Yemeni President 'Abdallah al-Sallal, who returned to Yemen and who lives there now with honor like any ordinary citizen. What do you think about that?

[Shummu] A very good idea, especially as the available information suggests that President Numayri has left politics. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] What information did you have about the RCC members that contributed to convincing you to accept a ministerial post?

[Shummu] First, I knew them as nationalists.

[Al-Jawhari] Nationalists in what sense?

[Shummu] In the sense that they do not have ideological or party bias toward any side.

[Al-Jawhari] You mean Sudanese nationalists?

[Shummu] Yes. Also, you know a man from his conduct. If he is straight, religious, and has a known militant history, then all these things create confidence. What was remarkable is that they decided not to take any wages other than what they earn as Armed Forces officers, although they live in remote regions and come from simple families. Also, their statements and decisions give a convincing impression that they have a good Arab and African direction, a balanced foreign policy, and a determination to fight corruption and factionalism. This program is convincing for me.

[Al-Jawhari] We have learned that the RCC chairman is religious. Is the deputy chairman also religious?

[Shummu] I have no special information about the deputy chairman. However, I do know that all the RCC members are of good behavior, including the three non-Muslim southern members, who are known for their honesty, integrity, and clean hands.

[Al-Jawhari] Will the four committees formed by the RCC before forming the government continue their work alongside the government? What will be the nature of this coordination between the committees and the specialized ministries? For example, what will the relationship between the information committee and Ministry of Information be like?

[Shummu] The Ministry of Information has specializations defined and known by law. The minister of information is a member of the cabinet. The duties of the cabinet are known. There remains the issue of the information committee. The committee was formed in the absence of a cabinet. It follows the RCC. The cabinet has the right to have committees that help it perform its duties, which have been defined by the sovereignity and legislation authority.

We as ministers sometimes have issues dealing with legislation that are discussed in the RCC due to the absence of a parliament.

To date, I do not know whether these committees will continue to function. I do not even know whether one of the RCC members will have any connection with the information aspect of things. However, I believe that there will be no problems.

[Al-Jawhari] What are the immediate priorities of the new government?

[Shummu] First, to hurry up in providing the missing staples and dealing with the fuel scarcity, which has started to affect agricultural and industrial production and electricity generation. The government decided in its first meeting today to start dealing with these issues.

The other aspect is to resolve the problem of the south peacefully through direct negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Do you believe that the economic system itself needs to be changed?

[Shummu] It needs a great deal of change.

[Al-Jawhari] In a more liberal or controlled way, if not socialist?

[Shummu] In a more controlled way, because we have a great deal of openness and liberalness, much more than needed, such as the openness toward importation. We cannot avoid pressures for a certain period of time. After that we can relax these pressures slightly.

[Al-Jawhari] When do you believe that the state of emergency in Sudan will end?

[Shummu] I believe in a very short period of time and after arresting some of the wanted, such as former Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives Iranian Envoy 23 Jul

LD2407144189 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The Iranian charge d'affaires to Bahrain Hoseyn Naraqian met with Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah in Manama on Sunday and discussed Iran-Iraq peace talks and bilateral relations.

The Iranian diplomat referred to obstructions made by the Iraqi regime in the course of the year-long peace talks on implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598.

Prime Minister Al Khalifah stressing importance of the resolution said his country and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council will work towards bringing the peace talks out of deadlock.

Telecommunications Company Plans New Station

JN2207152489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20-21 Jul 89 p 6

[By staff correspondent Ya'qub Razzaq]

[Text] Bahrain Telecommunications Company (BATELCO) signed a major contract Monday with a Japanese firm to build a new earth station at Ra's Abu-Jarjur site.

The BD [Bahraini dinars] one million agreement was jointly signed by Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, minister of transportation and chairman of BATELCO, with Koichi Kuroiwa, General Manager of Telecommunications and Electronics Department of Sumitomo Corporation.

The project, part of expansion plans of Bahrain's telecommunications system, is scheduled to be completed by July 1990. The newly built Standard A earth station will replace the first and oldest earth station in the Middle East, inaugurated by the Amir, Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, twenty years ago.

Humaydan stated, following the signing ceremony, the project is part of the development programme of Bahrain to enhance and expand its communications network with the outside world in order to maintain the island's position in the forefront of global telecommunications technology.

In 1969 Bahrain built the first satellite earth station in the Middle East and twenty years later it is still a pioneer in adopting new telecommunications technology, the BATELCO chairman added.

When completed the new satellite gateway will provide international communications services, including telephone, telex, data and television, through Intelsat satellite positioned on the Atlantic Ocean. The other BATELCO earth station provides similar services via Intelsat satellite positioned on the Indian Ocean and the Arabsat satellite.

Kuwait

Defense Ministry Denies Soviet Arms Deal Report

LD2407123289 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Jul, KUNA—A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry denied press reports that the Soviet Union has signed a deal with Kuwait whereby it will supply the latter with a large consignment of weapons.

The United Arab Emirates' newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published an article yesterday which said that the Soviet first deputy minister of defense, Army General Konstantin Kochetov, who recently visited Kuwait, has initialled an agreement according to which the Soviet Union will supply Kuwait with a large consignment of arms. In a statement to KUNA, the source described the story as totally untrue.

Soviet Union Reportedly Agrees To Supply Arms

JN2407185089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Soviet Union has agreed to supply Kuwait with an assortment of Soviet weapons including advanced combat aircraft, assault helicopters, and defensive naval ships, as well as other advanced military equipment including a large radar network.

Official Soviet sources in Moscow told AL-ITTIHAD that the Soviet first deputy defense minister, who visited Kuwait during the past 2 days, has initialled this agreement, whose articles also stipulated the allocation of seats in Soviet military academies for a large number of Kuwaiti military men to study there.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers' Meeting

LD2407204389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz chaired the Council of Ministers meeting held this afternoon, Monday, 21 Dhu al-Hijjah 1409h [24 July] at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

King Fahd spoke at the beginning of today's meeting praising and thanking Almighty God for making it possible for the pilgrims to make the hajj in a calm, safe, and stable climate despite the attempts of some misled and corrupt elements which aimed—through their criminal acts manifested in the explosions in the holy city of Mecca before and after the stopover of the pilgrims at Mount 'Arafat—to obstruct the pilgrims. [passage omitted]

The minister of information pointed out that the custodian of the two holy mosques informed the council about his talks and meetings with his brothers, the Arab leaders, within the framework of the existing and continuing consultations about the situation in the Arab region. He also informed the council about the results reached by the supreme tripartite Arab committee through its contacts with the sides concerned with the Lebanese situation. He expressed deep sorrow for the recent escalations on the Lebanese arena, which claimed the lives of more innocent victims in spite of all the existing efforts to stop the fighting between the two sides in the Lebanese capital.

The custodian of the two holy mosques appealed anew to all the Lebanese to give the peace efforts the chance to restore normality and to restore the constitution to their country, which lost many of its sons, abilities, and resources from the beginning of the Lebanese tragedy in 1975 until today.

King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz stressed that the supreme tripartite Arab committee is still doing its utmost for rescuing Lebanon, and said: "This will not happen unless everyone is sincere in cooperating to establish peace in Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-Iryani Discusses Unity, ACC, Oil Affairs

JN2307174289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 16

[By Mahmud 'Abidin from Baghdad]

[Excerpts] Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], has stressed the profundity and strength of YAR-Kuwaiti relations and denied that the YAR's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] has any negative impact on the YAR's relations with Kuwait. In an exclusive statement to AL-SIYASAH, he said that the National Charter, which is the theoretical evidence of the YAR's foreign policy, stipulates the uniqueness of these relations as a result of geographical and social facts. He also referred to Kuwait's distinguished role in economic and development areas in his country, as well as that of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Regarding political developments in Sudan, the YAR foreign minister said that it is too early to judge them. He voiced hope that the new Sudanese leadership will succeed in achieving development and stability in Sudan. He affirmed that overcoming Sudan's problems depends mainly on reaching a peace agreement and ending the current war in the south. He added: "Nothing else." [passage omitted]

Asked about the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] joining the ACC and whether such a move should be preceded by the unification of the two parts of Yemen, Dr al-Iryani said that Yemen's unity will not at all be affected by the establishmemt of the ACC and the YAR's membership on the council. He stressed that Yemen's unity will remain a strategic and persistent goal and that the issue of this unity is not an issue of coordination but of actual and complete unity. As is known, the issue of unity between the two parts of Yemen is not the same as Arab unity, because it is a persisting and daily goal of every citizen. Therefore, the ACC will neither hamper nor decide Yemen's unity because Yemen's basic decisions have nothing to do with the either part's membership in an Arab grouping, whose main characteristics are economic, although its strategic goal is unity. He said that the PDRY joining the ACC is up to the PDRY itself. He added that the concept of the political declaration of the ACC enables any Arab country to join if the founding countries agree unanimously.

Regarding the economic side and the extent of changes in Yemeni society following the discovery of oil, he said that Yemen exports 185,000 to 195,000 barrels a day and that in light of the current prices, this quantity is sufficient for buying the oil it needs for local consumption, adding that there are new discoveries that will contribute to achieving further economic and social development. He also said: President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has announced that if there are additional oil revenues, these revenues will be used for agricultural and industrial purposes in particular and for building the infrastructure. The YAR foreign minister also said that agriculture is a priority, that we cannot say that the YAR has surplus from oil exports, that the YAR exports crude oil and purchases refined oil, and that the results indicate the existence of new oil fields. He added: f this occurs, we will plan to use the oil wealth in the various sectors.

The YAR foreign minister ruled out that the YAR will join OPEC in the near future, and said that new oil explorations will be declared soon and will enable the YAR to use its surplus for development purposes. [passage omitted]

Official on U.S., USSR Ties, Regional Issues

JN2407100389 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jul 89 p 16

[By Fayruz Mubayidin from Baghdad]

[Text] Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, has said that the Arab Cooperation Council policy is currently concerned with providing the peoples in the four member-states greater scope for interaction and participation so as to raise the level of political relations among the leaders of the four countries.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Hamdun stated that Iraq has expressed its clear commitment to the Arab states and the public that it will support the Arab tripartite committee set up to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis. He said Iraq will not hesitate to accept any resolution issued by the committee.

He added that the current situation in Lebanon does not pose a threat to Lebanon's internal security alone, but to the security of all nations in the Middle East. He pointed out that partitioning any Arab country along sectarian lines would weaken all Arab states.

Hamdun said Iraq will not speculate on the internal situation in Iran, but he said that it is incorrect to say that Iran needs weapons to defend itself. He noted that Iraq has declared the Soviet Union's supplying of Iran with weapons as unacceptable and as an act which does not serve the peace process, but which hampers and complicates it further.

He added that Iraqi-Soviet military and economic relations improve or deteriorate in accordance with what he called the mutual interests of the two countries.

Hamdun said Iraqi-U.S. relations are good and that the postwar circumstances have provided better opportunities for promoting them, especially in the area of trade.

Cuban Communist Party Delegation Visits Baghdad

Saddam Receives Official

JN2407175389 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jul. 24, INA—President Saddam Husayn received today morning Dr Cambers, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee [name and title as received], and his family.

'Aziz, Valdez Meet

JN2107163889 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 21, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, this afternoon met here with Mr Jorge Rescut Valdez, member of the Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of promoting bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and international issues.

The Cuban official is in Baghdad to attend celebrations marking the 21st anniversary of the July 17 revolution.

Delegation Departs 22 Jul

JN2207102889 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 22, INA—Cuban delegation headed by the member of Political Bureau in charge of External Relations Office of the Cuban Communist Party left Baghdad this morning after attending the celebrations of 21st anniversary of July 17 Revolution.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim culture and information minister and the Cuban ambassador to Iraq.

Sudanese Official Arrives in Baghdad 22 Jul

JN2207152489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Confers With Saddam

JN2307132789 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn received Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and deputy prime minister, and his delegation in Baghdad this morning. Al-Zubayr conveyed a written message from Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Council for National Salvation and prime minister, dealing with the recent developments in Sudan as well as relations between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting, the president leader expressed his heartfelt wishes for fraternal Sudan as well as his hope that Sudan will preserve its national unity and achieve security and stability in order to realize the Sudanese people's aspirations.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The Sudanese delegation accompanying al-Zubayr comprised Staff Colonel Salah-al-Din Muhammad Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Council for National Salvation; Staff Major General Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, member of the General Command; Staff Major General 'Ali Yusuf al-Badri, commander of the Air Force; Staff Brigadier General Hasan 'Uthman, member of the General Command; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by Ibrahim

JN2307111589 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 23, INA—Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Revolution Command Council met here today with Vice-Chairman of Sudanese Revolution Command Council, Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, brotherly relations between the two countries and Arab issues of common concern were discussed.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister and on the Sudanese side by Commodore Salah-al-Din member of the RCC, Maj. Gen. Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, deputy chief of staff, Air Force Commander 'Ali Yusuf Muhammad, and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Departs 23 Jul

JN2307133089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad at noon today concluding a 2-day visit to Iraq.

The visiting delegation was accorded an official send-off at Saddam International Airport, headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council. [passage omitted]

Body of Murdered KDPI Member Arrives in Baghdad

JN2407093889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—The body of Dr Fadil Rasul, member of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI], who was assassinated by agents of the Iranian regime along with KDPI Secretary General Dr 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu in Vienna on 13 July, arrived in Baghdad tonight.

Rasul's body was received by representatives of the Protocol and Consular Departments at the Foreign Ministry and his family.

The KDPI held the Iranian authorities responsible for the assassination of Dr Qasemlu, Dr Fadil Rasul, and another KDPI leader.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Amman 21 Jul

JN2107163389 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 21, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today after attending Amman meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council.

The meetings concluded last night, discussed working papers on coordinating works among the Foreign Ministries of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic and their joint action on the Arab and International levels.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

JN2207194389 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Field Martial Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired an expanded meeting of the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The meeting was attended by officers from the Defense Ministry and experts from the Military Industry Organization. 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of defense affairs, and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, also attended the meeting.

Paper on Negotiations, 'Iranian Manipulations'

JN2307112089 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 23, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad stressed that carrying on negotiations between Iraq and Iran on the bases of 8th August agreement of 1988 was the sole course for implementing Security Council Resolution No. 598.

These negotiations, it pointed out, are compatible with international traditions which consider direct dialogue as the required method for such negotiations among countries.

A daily study published here today said that Iraq, in the light of the course drawn up by President Saddam Husayn, would continue dealing with the United Nations and its secretary general in a constructive way for realising peace in the region.

In accordance with this principled position, the daily pointed out, President Husayn affirmed that steps along the path of peace would continue despite the Iranian manipulations.

AL-QADISIYAH added that ingredients of peace emanates from Iraq's faith in peace as the basic law of life and that war is an emergency and circumstancial law.

It pointed out that Iraq's peaceful stand was crystallized during the negotiations for implementing Resolution 598 and the keenness and seriousness it had shown for bringing them into success and achieving a final and balance settlement to the outstanding problems between the two sides.

It affirmed that despite manoeuvering and procrastination exercised by Tehran rulers to evade achieving lasting and comprehensive peace would finally succumb to the reality that their expansionist designs and intellectual program were defeated. [sentence as received]

Paper Views Syrian-Iranian Moves in Lebanon

JN2307123889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH calls upon Arab leaders to shoulder their responsibilities so as to face up to the schemes and designs being hatched against Lebanon before it is too late and before the danger exacerbates and turns Lebanon along with Syria into hostages in the hands of racist Iran.

In a commentary published here today, the paper says that the level of the conspiratorial coordination between the Syrian and Iranian regimes on the Lebanese situation has developed during the past few days to result in setting up a new political framework comprising all sectarian, anti-Arab, and treasonous forces in the Lebanese arena.

The paper adds that the Syrian regime is working to mobilize all its resources and potentialities, along with those of its allies and tools, to thwart any Arab solution in Lebanon after it found itself incapable of achieving this objective by itself despite using all means of military pressure and political blackmail available to it.

AL-THAWRAH points out that the Iranian regime has ambitions and objectives in Lebanon which are no less dangerous than those of the Zionists. The paper adds: And here lies the real danger posed to Lebanon's Arabism, destiny, and future after the Tehran rulers moved from a position of support to that of full partner in managing the Lebanese crisis and conflict.

The paper warns against the seriousness of the new conspiratorial step taken against the unity, Arabism, and future of Lebanon and also against the pan-Arab security in general. The paper adds that the Arab tripartite committee tasked with finding a comprehensive Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis is well aware of the situation and of its ugly conspiratorial manifestations.

Ground Station To Be Inaugurated 8 August

JN2407175089 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—A new telecommunications ground station is to be inaugurated on August 8 by Iraq's Ministry of Transport and Communications. The station will be utilized in transmitting and receiving TV and broadcasting programmes via the Arab satellite Arabsat and securing other services with Arab and Islamic countries.

The station will also facilitate communications among the Arab Cooperation Council member states of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen, as it will operate various channels and amplitudes and be capable of serving different programmes through Arabsat first hand.

The station of Victory, so termed, is to mark the first anniversary of the 8 August 1988 ceasefire accord between Iraq and Iran.

OBSERVER on Oil Production, Refineries

JN2407112089 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—The development of oil refineries in the cities of Kirkuk, al-Basrah, Samawai and Baiji and the establishment of more engine oil and lubricants' production lines in some refineries has increased the capacity of producing oil products to a total of 600,000 barrels per day (bpd), Ministry of Oil source said.

The English language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' quoted Ministry source as saying that work is going on building a new central refinery which will raise refining capacity by another 150,000 bpd.

He added that extensive efforts were being made by the Oil Ministry to exploit the gas, a byproduct during oil operations.

Previously foreign oil monopolies used to flare the gas, thus wasting an important national resource. So far, the gas treatment units in the North and South gas projects are capable of exploiting 80 percent of the gas obtained during oil production.

The rise in gas production has been accompanied by a steady increase in national consumption of liquified gas reaching seven folds of the consumption before the Iraqis took its production to their hands. However, the production surpassed demand at home and Iraq is currently exporting liquified gas to Kuwait through pipes and to Turkey and Jordan by large road tankers.

It is expected that during 1990, Iraq will be capable of exporting four million tons of liquified gas by sea tankers via the Arab Gulf.

At present, Iraq is exporting oil products via the Arab Gulf but on a smaller scale. It was in 1989 that Iraq first started exporting oil products by sea tankers.

The Iraqi tankers Faw and Khanaqin were loaded earlier this year with quantities of fuels and liquified gas. This was made possible after the establishment of a pipeline network connecting some refineries to the oil export terminals in the Iraqi Gulf port of Khawr al-Zubayr.

The Iraqi oil industry was also successful in recycling waste oil and lubricants and good results were obtained as the new product is compatible with world standards. This resulted in saving large sums of money in hard currency which would have otherwise been spent on importing similar products.

As for crude oil output, Iraq was able to increase crude oil production in 1988 by 19.3 percent compared to the previous year, while its crude exports increase by 15.3 percent during the said period.

Iraq's production of crude oil is expected to witness further increases as work on new oil wells is under way in the giant Majnun oilfield which was liberated by Iraqi forces last year.

Meanwhile, the Oil Projects Company is developing the West al-Qurnah oilfield, to the north of the Iraqi port city of al-Basrah which will further boost oil output. Other oil fields have had their role in increasing crude oil production. North al-Rumaylat oilfield was developed in 1980 as well as Bazargan, Fakkah, Abu-Ghurayb, Nahran, Bay Hasan, Jambur, Hamrin, Khurmal and most recently the east of Baghdad oilfield.

According to the Ministry of Oil sources, some 100 oil wells have been discovered by Iraqi experts and staff during the last 20 years. these wells are estimated to be capable of producing a total of 280 billion barrels of crude oil.

Iraqi oil staff has shown equal capability in marketing its oil abroad. Iraq currently deals with more than 50 countries and a large number of international oil marketing firms.

One of the priorities of the Ministry of Oil has been to develop the efficiency and skills of Iraqi engineers and technicians and to secure a permanent source of good staff for this ever-developing industry. Consequently two large oil training institutes are operative in Baghdad and al-Ta'mim Province. Each year around 2,000 students graduate from both institutes.

Syrian Attack on Air Force Plane Denied

TA2507141989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1410 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpt] According to the Lebanese Christian radio station [as heard] in Beirut, Syrian Army troops today fired three SAM-7's at Israeli Air Force aircraft. The missiles did not hit their targets. The Israeli army spokesman has denied that such an incident took place. [passage omitted]

Shamir Reportedly Confers With Palestinians

TA2407200489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Reports were received this evening from various sources, including PLO headquarters in Tunis, about Palestinian public figures who met recently with Israeli officials, including the prime minister. The Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem refused to confirm the list of people mentioned in these reports. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told that it was decided to take this position at the request of the Palestinian personalities who participated in the talks.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, confirmed that Mr Shamir conferred in the past 2 weeks with various Palestinian leaders, and discussed with them the possibilities of advancing the peace initiative. He stressed that the participants were not PLO members and there was no attempt to use them to transmit messages to the organization.

Eli Halali, a Likud Central Committee member, one of the Israelis who was said to have met in Vienna with 'Abd-al-Razzaq Yahya, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, denies the meeting took place.

Among the names mentioned in the other reports are Sari Nusaybah, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash of East Jerusalem, and AL-QUDS Editor Mahmud Abu-al-Zalaf, who denied the report but expressed readiness to meet with the prime minister.

Other names mentioned are Mansur al-Shawwa of Gaza, Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi of Ramallah, and Al-'Aziz al-Din Arian of Ramallah, the head of the Red Cross in Judaea and Samaria. Al-Tarifi and Arian denied that the meetings took place to our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a. Two others, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah of Gaza and Ilyas Frayj of Bethlehem, told our correspondent Bassam Jabir that they would meet with the prime minister if invited to do so. [passage omitted]

Meets With Fatah Supporter

TA2407101389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jul 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Last Thursday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met with Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi from al-Birah, who is identified with the mainstream of Fatah. The two discussed Israel's peace initiative, including the plan for elections in the territories. Authoritative sources have reported that al-Tarifi explained to the Israeli officials organizing the prime minister's meetings with Palestinians in the territories that he would have to brief the PLO leaders in Tunis on the content of his conversation—which indeed he did.

Attorney al-Tarifi has been a city council member in al-Birah, which is adjacent to Ramallah. He is the first Palestinian identified with Fatah to meet with the prime minister on the peace initiative. The meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Bureau in Jerusalem, and the conversation was conducted in English. Al-Tarifi requested clarifications from the prime minister on how the Likud Central Committee's resolutions coincide with and the peace initiative. Shamir emphasized that the resolutions have no practical significance and that they do not alter the plan one bit. The Prime Minister's Bureau refused to address the report last night.

Prime Minister's Office Denies Offer to 'Arafat

TA2507090789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jul 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by political correspondent Yohanan Lahav, Rome-based correspondent Yosi Be'er, Roni Shaqed, and Tzvi Alush]

[Excerpts] PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "has already offered Palestinians in the occupied territories a semi-independence."

'Arafat was interviewed by two correspondents—one on behalf of the U.S. Hearst network, and the other from the Italian IL MESSAGGERO. [passage omitted]

The Prime Minister's Office hastily denied the report: "Prime Minister Shamir has not offered 'Arafat anything," Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, retorted last night. "The issue the prime minister discusses in his talks with Palestinian representatives is the peace initiative, and not semi- or quarter-independence. He speaks of 5-year self-government and of negotiations for a final settlement."

Pazner stressed that "in none of these talks did Shamir request that his remarks be relayed to the PLO and to 'Arafat." As for the PLO leader's recent interview, Pazner said: "This is the daily interview of 'Arafat, who invents facts to create the impression that he is a partner in talks with Israel." [passage omitted]

Palestinians Gather at Egyptian Reception

TA2407172389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] A reception hosted by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni for notables from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of

Egypt's Revolution Day ended a short time ago at the ambassador's residence. This was a separate reception for inhabitants of the territories, following yesterday's reception in which the ambassador hosted ministers, Knesset members, and other guests. Our correspondent Bassam Jabir reports from the reception.

[Begin recording] [Jabir] The reception was attended by notables from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and their spouses. Although the purpose of the reception was for the notables to convey their congratulations to the Egyptian ambassador, it was clear from the start that the meeting at Muhammad Basyuni's residence would be used for the ambassador to exchange views with his guests, and for the guests to exchange views among themselves.

The reception was also attended by Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi, whose name has been mentioned in connection with a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Attorney al-Tarifi would not comment on the report about his meeting with the prime minister.

We asked the guests to air their views about the issue of meetings between Palestinian notables and Prime Minister Shamir. This is what Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said:

[Frayj's remarks in Arabic followed by Jabir's translation] I have not received any invitation to confer with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but if I were to receive one I would accept the invitation and I would immediately notify the media.

Fayiz Abu Rahman, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, said that the PLO is also in favor of meetings between Palestinian notables and Israeli officials.

[Abu Rahmah's remarks in Arabic followed by Jabir's translation] There is no objection whatsoever on the part of the PLO to such meetings. There has been a continuous dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. Attorney Abu Rahmah added that in a meeting with the prime minister it would be possible to exchange views, and each side would have its say.

The reception was a good opportunity for the guests to exchange views, as the Egyptian ambassador told us.

[Basyuni's remarks in Arabic followed by Jabir's translation] Any meeting of this kind leads to talks on topical political issues, and there is no doubt that the Israeli peace initiative featured prominently in our talks at the reception. [end recording]

Egyptian Ambassador Requests 'Clarifications'
TA2407045589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir says the goal now is to get Arab acceptance for the peace initiative. Only then, Shamir says, will Israel discuss the details. The prime minister was speaking to reporters last night at a reception in Tel Aviv hosted by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni to mark the Egyptian revolution. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] The Egyptian Embassy hosted 1,000 guests, including 16 Israeli Cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and other dignitaries. Last year the embassy canceled the reception because of the intifadah [uprising]. This year they held it, albeit in a more modest and formal form, because, said Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni, it is necessary to maintain the dialogue in order to reach peace. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni insisted that Israel would have to make clarifications before Egypt would agree to support the peace initiative.

[Basyuni] There is initiative, Israeli initiative—welcome! But we would like to know what is this initiative. You want to sell to me a box, a closed box. I would like to know what is inside, to buy it from you or not. So I would like to know the details of the initiative so that I can help you to find Arab partners.

[Zinder] There were no Palestinian notables present at the reception last night. For the first time, the ambassador is holding a separate reception for them tomorrow at his home. [end recording]

And also at the reception, Le'a Zinder asked Vice Premier Peres just what role Egypt could play in the peace process:

[Begin recording] [Peres] One must say that President Mubarak has shown leadership, constancy, and devotion to peace, and it is surely a refreshing, almost sensational, phenomenon in the otherwise gloomy horizons of the Middle East. I think Mubarak became an outstanding leader for peace, and I appreciate it very much and I salute it.

[Zinder] Do you think the Egyptians can play an active role in the next stage of the search for peace, in furthering the peace initiative?

[Peres] Yes. They are playing and they can play, and I think we should welcome their part in this overall effort to proceed toward peace.

[Zinder] The peace between Israel and Egypt, even after all this time, is still a cold one. What is needed, in your view, to make the peace a more substantive one?

[Peres] To warm up the air around us.

[Zinder] How can this be done?

[Peres] Well, if we shall solve the Palestinian problem, I think we shall be in business. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 24 July carries a report on the Egyptian Embassy reception in which Prime Minister Shamir describes Israeli-Egyptian relations as being "relations of peace, although they are not too warm or 100 percent normal. There is room for great improvement."]

Senior Palestinians React to Cabinet Vote

TA2407111489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jul 89 p 3

[Report by Roni Shaqed and ITIM]

[Text] Senior Palestinian figures from the territories yesterday expressed satisfaction with the Cabinet's ratification of the peace initiative without the four "braces," although the move did not spark great hopes.

The personalities explained that the Palestinians' terms have not changed and that their position—which favors the elections in principle, provided the conditions change—still holds. At the same time, they noted that they hope the United States will now pressure Israel to adopt more flexible views and proceed to accelerated negotiations toward holding the elections. —Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, normally considered a moderate, said yesterday that "the Cabinet's resolution will not change anything. The Likud Central Committee's 'braces' will resurface each time negotiations begin and progress is made toward the practical stages. We Arabs must believe what Sharon says, as Shamir's views are no different from Sharon's. He is merely trying to employ public relations tricks. From our point of view, the Likud Central Committee decisions are what counts." He pointed out that the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections is a primary condition for these elections to be held. —Sa'id Kan'an, a businessman associated with Fatah, also said yesterday that the Palestinians still do not accept Shamir's plan, regarding it as a propaganda ploy. At the same time, he said, the resolution may yield some changes. —Faysal al-Husayni, who heads the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies, said: "If the Israelis are prepared to listen to the other side now, if they are ready to hear the Palestinians' objections to the peace plan, this will constitute another important, positive step forward." —Attorney Fayiz abu-Rahmah, the head of the Gaza Strip Bar Association, said: "Today's decision clarified the situation and highlighted the Cabinet's true intentions. We support the election plan, yet we now need a third party—the United States—to change the Israeli peace initiative and define the final objective of the regional peace process." —Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the head of the Arab Journalists Association, commented: "The decision is positive, but the Israeli peace plan still needs some changes."

Several Palestinian notables identified with Fatah's mainstream in the territories added that they would now be prepared to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to discuss the Israeli peace plan. "If I am invited by Shamir, I will agree to meet with him without hesitation. We Palestinians are in favor of engaging in a dialogue with everyone," noted Abu-Rahmah.

Al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah stated that they would consider a meeting with Shamir, if invited.

Jerusalem sources noted that the prime minister will continue to hold meetings with Palestinians in a bid to persuade them to accept the political initiative and allow them to voice their opinions on it. At the same time, they noted that the prime minister and the foreign minister will only conduct talks with residents of the territories, not East Jerusalem residents, as a meeting with the latter might be perceived as an indication that they will be included in the election plan.

Arens Comments on 'Landmark' Senate Decision

TA2107184689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Elimelekh Ram on 21 July—videorecorded]

[Text] [Ram] Good evening, Mr Foreign Minister.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Ram] Does the text of the decision adopted in the Senate yesterday regarding contacts with the PLO satisfy you?

[Arens] I think that this decision constitutes a landmark. It is a pleasant surprise for all Israelis, because after approximately 1 year of talks between the United States and the PLO—a year in which we have constantly warned the U.S. Administration that these meetings do not help the peace process but rather the opposite—we have received a clear signal from a decisive majority of the Senate which has limited the dialogue and forbidden the administration to hold talks with those PLO members who have participated in the murder or kidnapping of U.S. citizens.

[Ram] Only U.S. citizens. Does this not imply that murdering and kidnapping Israeli citizens is permitted?

[Arens] Look, until this decision in the Senate there were no limitations whatsoever. The administration was able to—and apparently did—hold talks without any constraints at all. This decision is a constraint, and in my

opinion, quite a big one. It shows awareness of the fact that the issue involves terrorists, and shows a natural resistance to those people who have harmed U.S. citizens.

We are cognizant about the terrorist organization called the PLO; there is no one there who is not involved in murder or attacks on Israeli citizens. Therefore, I believe that our own position of completely refusing to negotiate with the PLO will now be better understood than in the past.

[Ram] Nevertheless, it has been reported that the U.S. Administration has expressed displeasure at Israel's and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's involvement in encouraging Jesse Helms' initiative. It claims that such a decision would actually hinder the administration's efforts to get the PLO to the negotiating table.

[Arens] Israel was not involved in any way. We do not interfere in legislative issues within the U.S. Congress. I believe that the decision was approved by 92 out of 93 voters. The man who voted against the decision was Jesse Helms, who thought that the constraints should be more rigid. I think that this decision constitutes the current position, opinion, and awareness in the United States regarding the PLO.

[Ram] Speaking of relations with the PLO, how do you and the prime minister know for sure that the Palestinians you meet are not affiliated with the PLO?

[Arens] I do not know what the term affiliated means, and I do not know what....

[Ram, interrupting] ...supporters of the PLO.

[Arens] Look, one can tell whether they are PLO supporters in the course of the conversation. I assume that a PLO supporter would not be ashamed to state his support for the organization. I must say that I have not as yet heard such clear-cut statements. The number of meetings has not, admittedly, been too large, but as yet I have not heard such statements.

[Ram] Do you check exactly whom you meet beforehand?

[Arens] Certainly.

[Ram] Their background?

[Arens] Yes.

[Ram] But here comes Minister Sharon, saying that these meetings encourage terror.

[Arens] I am surprised at these statements. I think he went too far and said that the prime minister and myself contribute to the murder of Jews—not purposely he said—but nevertheless contribute to the murder of Jews. I feel that these words ought never to have been said. I believe that today he regrets having made these statements. [At the conclusion of the newscast, the moderator says that in reaction, Industry and Trade Minister Sharon asserted that he had "never accused the prime minister or the foreign minister of contributing to the murder of Jews."]

[Ram] Do you only believe he regrets making them, or do you know this for a fact?

[Arens] I believe so. Ask him. Nevertheless, it is clear that we wish to talk to the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We want to know what they are thinking about, what their opinions are, what their reaction is to the Israeli political initiative, and whether we are nearing the moment when we will be able to hold the democratic and free elections we wish to conduct.

[Ram] If we are talking about elections, Minister Sharon says that is precisely the braces that the Likud Central Committee voted for that stopped Yasir 'Arafat from agreeing to the elections. Were we really so close to PLO acquiescence to elections in the territories?

[Arens] Now here I am surprised again, because we are not in the least interested in whether the PLO or 'Arafat agrees to the elections or not. We hold no contacts with them whatsoever, and our decisions are not influenced by their positions. We want direct dealings with the local population.

[Ram] Minister Sharon accused you and Prime Minister Shamir of virtually being accomplices to the murder of Jews. Do you feel that considering the atmosphere currently prevalent within the government, the prime minister can promote the peace process?

[Arens] I am sure he can further the peace process. This does not mean that I enjoy the climate. But we have already seen conditions, or moments, of tension within the government. I assume this will pass.

[Ram] Is this just a tense atmosphere, sir?

[Arens] You just defined it as a tense atmosphere.

[Ram] Nothing more serious than that?

[Arens] I do not know what other degrees of tension you are referring to. But personal tensions—we have already seen this in Israeli governments. It is apparently an integral part of the functioning of our government—perhaps not entirely desirable; we get used to these things too easily. I believe it will pass—it must pass.

[Ram] And if it does not pass, do you feel that the prime minister should take personal steps regarding Minister Sharon?

[Arens] I do not think it would be correct for me to offer advice to the prime minister from this forum. This kind of matter should be dealt with only in private conversations.

[Ram] Thank you, Mr Arens.

U.S. Position 'Unequivocal' Despite Senate Vote
TA2307082689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Beyond the Shadow-Boxing"]

[Text] It is only natural that there are different readings in Washington and in Jerusalem of Thursday's U.S. Senate vote on an amendment that would restrict American contacts with the PLO. Looking at the full half of the glass, official Jerusalem appears to be pleased, on the face of it, that the amendment was passed, even if only in a diluted compromise version. The point is stressed that from now on U.S. officials will not be allowed to meet with PLO representatives who have the blood of Americans on their hands.

Taking this a step further, the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry were quick in applying an Israeli analogy to the Senate vote. As Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu put it yesterday, now it will be much easier to understand why Israel is consistent in its refusal to talk to the PLO which has so much Israeli blood on its hands.

On the eve of a diplomatic mission to London and Paris, Mr. Netanyahu said he believes that last week's vote on Capitol Hill will help in explaining Israel's official position. As enunciated clearly and repeatedly by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Washington and Europe must choose between Jerusalem's peace initiative and the PLO. These two just cannot dwell together. It is either or. Any further involvement with the PLO only serves to undermine the peace initiative.

This point was taken almost to the brink last week by a senior political adviser to Mr. Shamir, the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Yosef Ben-Aharon. In what seemed an initiated interview with one of the major international news agencies, Mr. Ben-Aharon stated unequivocally that the moment of truth in relations between Washington and Jerusalem had come. Clearly, the U.S. must choose between continuing its dialogue with the PLO and its efforts to further Israel's peace initiative whose centrepiece is Palestinian elections in the territories. Attempting to move in both directions was self-contradictory. Jerusalem cannot and will not tolerate any PLO involvement in its peace initiative.

It is a moot point whether Mr. Ben-Aharon was merely voicing the prime minister's true assessment of the present impasse with Washington regarding the ongoing U.S.-PLO dialogue, or whether he had overstated his brief much to Mr. Shamir's embarrassment. It stands to reason to assume that the prime minister was not exactly overjoyed with both the timing and the blunt formulations of the statement by his director-general. At a time when Mr. Shamir has his hands full trying to persuade both Washington and his Labour Party coalition partner that the peace initiative is still alive and well, despite the constraints forced on him by the opposition leaders in his own party, such a challenge to the U.S. Administration is certainly not helpful, to say the least.

The view from Washington is quite different, of course. There, President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker were clearly looking at the empty half of the glass, assessing that they could live with the watered-down version of the amendment that was passed by the Senate. Had they had it their way, there would not have been any amendment at all that would limit the U.S.-PLO dialogue. But having vigorously opposed the sweeping restrictions which Republican Senator Jesse Helms would have imposed on U.S. contacts with the PLO, the compromise reached after the Helms amendment was voted down was seen as the lesser evil.

Sources close to senior U.S. Administration officials at first even described the vote as a clear victory for President Bush. But, on second thoughts, however, the State Department moved to counterattack, maintaining yesterday that the just-passed Senate legislation designed to restrict U.S. contacts with the PLO was unconstitutional and not legally binding on the president. It seems likely that this official U.S. interpretation of the Senate vote was aimed primarily at the ears of the PLO leadership in Tunisia in an attempt to assuage their anger and concern, particularly at a time when they voice growing dissatisfaction at the lack of progress made during the seven months of the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

At the political level, State Department officials agreed yesterday however, that it was unlikely now that additional contacts with the PLO's second-in-command, Salah Khalaf, known as Abu-Iyad, would be authorized for the time being because of his involvement in the Black September terror group. But they explained at the same time that it was precisely at the two informal meetings last month between U.S. Ambassador in Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau, and Salah Khalaf that Washington had received the best response, so far, regarding the Israeli peace plan and Palestinian elections in the territories.

The message from Washington is absolutely clear and unequivocal. Beyond the shadow-boxing over PLO involvement in the peace process, the only chance for Israel's peace initiative lies in the success of U.S. persuasion and pressure on the PLO to obtain its consent. Two totally opposed views from Jerusalem and from Washington, but whoever believes in the future and viability of the peace initiative must bear in mind that this is the real and unshakable position of Israel's major ally.

Senate Decision on Dialogue With PLO 'Peculiar'

TA2407045889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] After yesterday's Cabinet decision, Minister Weizman told reporter Jack Katzenell that the only viable path to peace was talking to the PLO.

[Begin Weizman recording] I think that before you vote for elections you have to decide on facts and figures in the area. I think that we'll find ourselves having elected a body that is more extreme than the PLO itself. Therefore, I said then and I say now: We have to talk directly to the PLO. We have to involve Egypt far more than we do, obviously with the United States—despite the fact that they came to a very peculiar conclusion. The United States decided it will not talk to any PLO that damaged Americans. What about PLO who damaged Israelis? So this is a very peculiar decision. I would talk to the PLO regardless, and I am afraid that elections, if they are executed, will bring a body more extreme than the PLO; therefore, I recommended all the time to talk openly, manly, with guts, directly with what is considered to be an enemy. [end recording]

Netanyahu, Waldegrave on 'Internal Arab Terror'

TA2507092389 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Jul 89 p 3

["Exclusive" report by UK-based correspondent Dalya Sharon]

[Text] London—Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and British Minister of State William Waldegrave have agreed that internal Arab terror—the killing of Arabs by Arabs—is the main difficulty obstructing the promotion of the peace process.

They also agreed that the right of return is not an issue for discussion. Waldegrave said that were it to do so, Israel would be consenting to something that goes against its very existence. On the issue of the dialogue with the PLO, however, Waldegrave persisted in his view that Israel must talk with the PLO.

The Netanyahu-Waldegrave meeting was held as part of the Israeli Government's effort to obtain support for its peace initiative. Netanyahu suggested that rather than adopt the PLO, the British Government should proffer its unqualified support for the initiative as well as material aid for the refugee rehabilitation plan.

The rehabilitation of refugees is a multinational plan requiring an annual investment of $400 million. Israel proposes that Britain take part in the plan, covering 10 percent of its cost.

Draft Accord Signed With USSR To Coproduce Films

TA2407090089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 89 p 5

[Report by the business correspondent]

[Text] Israel and the Soviet Union have signed a draft agreement to promote the co-production of films, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday.

Yoram Golan, head of the Israel Film Centre at the ministry, said the agreement was reached following the recent visit by a group of Israeeli film-makers to Moscow. He said four joint productions would be made this year—two thrillers, one documentary and one docudrama—and filmed in Israel. A delegation from the Soviet Union will arrive in Israel soon to complete the agreement, he said.

The Israeli delegation to Moscow also discussed the possibility of four other joint projects for next year.

High Court Rules on Converts, Law of Return

TA2507062389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Hayim Shapiro]

[Excerpt] In the culmination of a long and complex case involving numerous petitioners and counter-petitioners, the High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the Interior Ministry to accept non-Orthodox converts to Judaism as immigrants according to the Law of Return and register them as Jews.

In another ruling, the court rejected a petition which would have enabled Reform rabbis to perform marriages here.

The ruling on the registration of non-Orthodox converts came at a time when the Interior Ministry had begun to reverse its former practice of allowing such converts to come as immigrants, even though it did not register them as Jews. The ministry had excluded them by demanding that all conversion certificates must be validated by the local rabbinical courts, which accepted only Orthodox conversions. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 25 July reports on the High Court ruling, adding that on the political level, "SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] announced last night it would not leave the coalition, since the measures adopted by the Interior Ministry meant that Jewish religious law would not be affected." The report further quotes Agudat Yisra'el leader Menahem Porush as saying that his party is now "ready to leave the coalition," although "the matter will be decided by the movement's Council of Sages.]

Intifadah Camps Signify 'Radicalization'

TA2407051189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Another nationalist children's camp which taught participants to support the intifadah [uprising] has been uncovered in the Israeli Arab town of Shefar'am. Three of the organizers were arrested. Shlomo Berger reports:

[Begin recording] This is an attempt, almost institutionalized, to educate a whole generation of children to hate the state and work against it. So says Northern District Police Commander Albert Musafya. The manifestation is serious, he says. It's not just another incident of someone raising a Palestinian flag or youths writing slogans on the walls.

The camp is the third to be discovered recently in northern Israel. One was also in Shefar'am, the other in Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights.

The camp discovered yesterday in Shefar'am did not operate secretly. It was located in the center of town, only a short distance from the high schools. Posters were found with nationalist slogans, such as "The Way of Victory Comes Through Blood." Each morning the children were required to sing the Palestinian national hymn.

The camp was organized by the RAKAH Communist Party branch in Shefar'am. The branch secretary was arrested, as were the two camp directors.

Senior police officials say their hands are tied. There is not enough money or manpower, they say, to monitor every camp. Police Commander Musafya says the situation is not yet an intifadah in the Galilee, but he says we are talking about a growing radicalization of Palestinian nationalism. [end recording]

Cabinet Endorses Plan To Reduce Unemployment

TA2407111889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The Cabinet has endorsed the Treasury plan designed to reduce the national unemployment rate. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that according to the Cabinet decision, a total of 275 million shekels will be funneled to investment and infrastructure. The aid to companies with fair recovery prospects will be increased.

The finance, labor and social affairs, and justice ministers will examine possibilities for amending the unemployment insurance and minimum wage laws. A special center for the problem of female unemployment will be established. [passage omitted]

Curfew on Abu-Tor To Allow Searches, Arrests

TA2407050589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Jerusalem police imposed a curfew on the eastern portion of Abu-Tor—this, after disturbances increased over the past few weeks. The curfew was imposed to allow police to conduct searches and arrest residents wanted for hostile activities. More than 10 firebombs were hurled in the area over the past 2 weeks. Authorities say they will maintain the curfew until the police end their search of Abu-Tor.

1 Million Workers in 2-Hour General Strike

TA2407084289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by David Rosenberg, David Makovsky, and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] The economy moved into low gear for two hours yesterday as an estimated 1.25 million workers joined in the general strike called by the Histadrut yesterday to draw attention to growing unemployment.

Thousands of workers gathered in front of the Knesset for the labour federation's main demonstration, where they heard Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar and speakers from most of the major parties lambast the government for its failure to deal with unemployment, now running at about 10 percent and affecting 140,000 people.

At the same time, workers at Histadrut-owned companies, as well as civil servants, quit their posts between 11:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. Israel Radio went off the air for two hours, Kupat Holim Clalit [Sick Fund] and Bezek [Telephone Company] closed down and ports ceased operations.

The extent of the strike in the private sector was harder to gauge. Me'ir Gat, who headed the Histadrut's strike headquarters, said reports coming to him from around the country indicated widespread support for the walkout, not only in big factories, but also in smaller plants and workshops. But Dan Leish, a spokesman for the Manufacturers' Asscociation, maintained that participation by private-sector employees was limited.

At Ben-Gurion Airport flights were rescheduled, though some employees continued working. [passage omitted]

24 Jul Incidents in Territories Reported

1 Killed in Janin

TA2407151789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] A 22-year-old man was killed this morning in the town of 'Arrabah in the Janin area. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that there was no military activity in the town today. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the report.A youngster was slightly injured by soldiers' gunfire in the village of 'Attil in the Tulkarm area in the course of an IDF operation. The IDF was operating today in several villages in the Tulkarm area.

1 Killed in Gaza Shooting

TA2407123389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] One person was killed and another seriously wounded today when fire was directed at a municipal vehicle in Gaza. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several shots were fired at the vehicle this morning near the Gaza Municipality building. A 44-year-old resident of the al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood was killed and an inhabitant of the Al-Burayj refugee camp was seriously wounded. The latter was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital. The security forces have launched a search and investigation.

Finance Minister, CBJ Governor Discuss Economy
JN2407142289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1117 GMT 24 Jul 89

["Proceedings" of news conference by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and Central Bank Governor Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi in Amman on 24 July, carried within the "Newsreel" program—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Basil Jardanah, minister of finance, and Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], held a news conference at the CBJ building at noon today. They reviewed the results of the talks held with the Paris Club on rescheduling Jordan's foreign debts and the government's measures to deal with the financial and economic situation, in addition to defining the frameworks to be followed financially and economically with the aim of stabilizing the exchange rate of the dinar. At the beginning of the news conference, the finance minister said:

"We have called this meeting to review efforts exerted in the field of rescheduling foreign debts. These efforts are a basic part of the policies and programs adopted by the government with the aim of rectifying the Jordanian economy. It is certain that these efforts should bolster confidence in the Jordanian economy and stress that we can overcome the present difficulties. Naturally, the Finance Ministry and CBJ staff are looking forward to fruitful cooperation with the media institutions and organs, particularly in the sphere of entrenching confidence in the national economy and refuting the rumors that appear every now and then. A complete press release has been prepared, and I will now read it. It will be circulated among you in Arabic. We are also preparing an English translation of it and hope to be able to release it within 3 hours. I am going to start by reading our press release in Arabic. We are going to have an English translation of that press release, which we hope will be available in 3 hours. [previous two sentences in English] After reading the press release, His Excellency Dr al-Nabulsi and I and any of our staff will be pleased to answer your questions.

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

"A Press Release on the Rescheduling of Foreign Debts, Issued by the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Jordan

"Within the framework of rectifying the economic march, the government is adopting financial, monetary, and economic policies aimed at resuming growth and restoring balance to the state budget and balance of payments. The government attaches special importance to the economic readjustment programs it is adopting to increase national savings, which have noticeably retreated over the past few years as a result of an increase in government expenditure and an increase in the burdens of servicing the internal and external general debt.

"The increase in national savings is considered a basic pillar in supporting the development process through increasing investments in the private, production, and industrialization sectors. For the national economic efforts to achieve their aims, they must be accompanied by an international, external support that provides Jordan with exceptional foreign financing to help it avoid the large burdens resulting from paying off its foreign loans by means of rescheduling these loans under easy terms and in accordance with its present payment capablities.

"Therefore, the government has sought to reschedule the foreign loans granted to it, its public institutions, and the private sector under its guarantee, whether the loans were granted by friendly foreign countries, commercial banks operating in them, or international institutions. When the rescheduling programs were drawn up, priority was given to using Jordan's available foreign currency revenues to pay for the national economy's needs for foreign commodities and services so that servicing the general foreign debt would not constitute a burden preventing the attainment of this objective. As a precondition for their agreement to reschedule their loans, the foreign countries stipulate cooperation with the IMF and obtaining a loan from it to support the government's policies aimed at rectifying the structure of the Jordanian economy. This loan is usually granted after a comprehensive reassessment of the policies and programs to be adopted by the state that will obtain the loan.

"On 14 July 1989, the IMF board of directors reviewed and discussed Jordan's economic policies. After it had approved them, it granted Jordan two loans amounting to approximately $105 million, since they believe that these policies enable Jordan to realize the goals of economic readjustment. These include:
"1. Continuing the growth process so that it will attain a growth of around 4 percent in 1991 to compensate for a decline of around 3.5 percent in 1988.
"2. Retrieving the relative balance of the state general budget, so that the deficit of the budget decreases from about 24 percent of the Gross National Product at the end of 1988 to 6 percent at the end of 1993.
"3. Achieving a balance in the Jordanian balance of payments so that the current deficit decreases from 3 percent of the gross national product in 1988 to a balanced state in 1993.
"4. Gradually increasing the Kingdom's reserves of foreign currencies to be sufficient to cover the Kingdom's needs of these currencies by the end of 1993.

"The process of rescheduling is taking place through two major groupings: The first is known as the Paris Club, which includes the foreign creditor governments; the other is known as the London Club and includes the creditor commercial banks. On 19 July 1989, a meeting

was held with the Paris Club, which was attended by 14 members as participants and 3 as observers. At the end of this meeting, the minutes were signed in which the loans were rescheduled.

"The conferees demonstrated a good understanding of Jordan's stand and indicated a willingness to support it in the economic readjustment process. In the meeting, the club approved the rescheduling of the installments of all the due loans not paid off during 1989 and 1990 and part of their accumulated interest over a period varying between 10 and 11 years with a grace period of 5 to 6 years.

"At the beginning of this month, a meeting was held with the representatives of the creditor commercial banks, in which it was agreed to form a negotiations committee including six banks. Negotiations with them have begun, and it another meeting with them is expected in August to sign a memorandum of understanding organizing the process of rescheduling their loans.

"Here, the following is noteworthy:
"1. Most foreign loans are government loans or guaranteed by foreign governments. The trade loans do not constitute more than 19 percent of the total of loans.
"2. Over 32 percent of the total loans are easy loans for development purposes.
"3. The loans of the member states of the Paris Club constitute about 43 percent of the total foreign loans.

"The sum of the foreign loans that Jordan should pay off according to the rescheduling during 1989 and 1990 is estimated as follows:
"In 1989—installments: $843 million; interest: $370 million; total: $1.213 billion.
"In 1990—installments: $882 million; interest: $396 million; total: $1.278 billion.
"The total sum to be covered during 1989 and 1990—installments: $1.725 billion; interest: $767 million [figure as heard]; total: $2.492 billion.

"After having taken into consideration paying off all the above mentioned sums before rescheduling and meeting Jordan's foreign currency needs to pay off its imported goods—estimated at $2.612 billion in 1989 and $2.71 billion in 1999 [year as heard]—and services and to increase Jordan's foreign currency reserves, the conclusion was reached that the gap needing exceptional foreign currency finances through the rescheduling amounts to $656 million for 1989 and $622 million for 1990.

"And as a result of what was reached at the Paris Club and assuming that the commercial banks will reschedule only the installments of their loans to the exclusion of the interest due on them, the installments and the interest to be rescheduled are estimated at $696 million for 1989 and $676 million for 1990—that is in excess of the gap that has to be financed of 6 percent for 1989 and 8 percent for 1990.

"It is worth noting that the Paris Club members declared during their debates on Jordan's policies that Jordan is capable of riding over its present difficulties and its economic adjustment policies are capable of achieving balance in its ecomomy and rectifying its structure. This trend is solidified by the results reached by the board of directors of the IMF in its approval of granting Jordan two loans to support its readjustment program. If we take into consideration that the sums that have been rescheduled are in excess of the external payments, it emerges that a balance on the national level has been achieved between the Kingdom's receipts and payments of foreign currency, which will reflect positively on stable exchange rates for foriegn currencies.

"The Jordanian Government takes this opportunity to extend thanks and appreciation to friendly countries that have shown understanding of Jordan's circumstances and made assistance availabe during the Paris Club meetings. The Jordanian Government is determined to pursue effective policies to overcome current difficulites in the interests of the homeland and citizens. Success comes from God, and peace be upon you".

In answer to a question on the importance of rescheduling, the finance minister said: "According to the rescheduling program, during 1989 and 1990 we are supposed to pay back $1.725 billion worth of installments and $767 million worth of interest, adding up to $2.492 billion. This sum must be repaid. But as a result of rescheduling, approximately $1.4 billion of this sum will not have to be repaid since repayment has been postponed for a period of 10 to 11 years with a grace period of 5 to 6 years.

"The Paris Club groups the foreign governments and establishments to which Jordan owes money. For example, it groups the United States, France, Japan, the FRG, and Great Britain plus other countries—the major industrialized nations to which Jordan owes money. The Paris Club does not include commercial banks.

"As I have explained, the commercial banks have a separate club called the London Club, and at the beginning of this month we began talks with it. Next month we expect to hold a meeting to conclude an agreement or minutes of a meeting to regulate a rescheduling. The terms are expected to be in the worst circumstances of rescheduling. [sentence as heard] As parts of the loans, the installments due for repayment during 1989 and 1990 will be settled from 30 September 1994 or 30 September 1995 and subsequently repaid by semiannaual installments, the last of which will be due by the year 1999 or 2000.

"The rescheduling will take from 10 to 11 years including a 5 to 6 year grace period. Part of the interest due on these loans has been rescheduled, and the other part is to be paid because, as I have explained in this paper, there is an external gap when we take into account that we will settle all our loans, pay for all our imports, finance our external services, and build up decent foreign currency

reserves. For these 2 years, it emerged that the gap amounts to about $656 million one year and $622 million the other. We have rescheduled enough loans and interest to close the gap in addition to a general 2-year reserve of approximately 7 percent of the amount of the gap.

"This will achieve a balance between our total receipts and payments of foreign currency. Our overall foreign debt, including short-term loans of about $150 million obtained at the beginning of this year, amounts to approximately $8.3 billion. But this includes unwithdrawn amounts. The foreign debts that we have withdrawn amount to $7.2 billion."

[Al-Nabulsi] "Your Excellency the minister, I would like to point out that the question posed involved how much the debts will become, as if hinting that the issue of rescheduling implies a reduction. It is necessary to clarify that rescheduling does not imply any reduction of the debt. It is rather a postponement of payments of installments and some interest. There is no reduction. The amount of the debt is the same before and after the rescheduling, and the increase is only in the interest. It is only a partial increase. It may be useful to explain that the interest will remain at its usual levels. The interest on loans granted on easy development terms will remain at the same level, and the rescheduling will not result in any increase in interest rates."

Regarding the repayment of the Kingdom's future loans, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said: "As His Excellency the doctor said, the rescheduling does not mean any cancellation of the loans. We have to repay these loans. As noted, the value of the installments was rescheduled. Part of the interest has been rescheduled, and the rest will be repayed. Under the approved arrangements, there are ceilings for our borrowing in foreign currency. We do not expect any considerable increases in the size of Jordan's loans during the next 5 years. If any increases occur, they will be minor. I do not want to give any figure.

"There are ways to assess the country's ability to service the foreign debt, however. What has to be known is how much Jordan has to repay as installments and interest from its total exports of commodities and goods. The amount of the foreign loans will not increase considerably. But Jordan's national income and exports will improve within the next 5 years. If we compare Jordan's current ability to service the current foreign debt with Jordan's ability to service its debts after 5 years, we can say that in light of its future exports of commodities and services, the increase in the amount of the debt after 5 years will be reasonable and minor and that Jordan's ability to service the debt after 5 years will increase remarkably."

The minister and the CBJ governor answered a question on the effect of rescheduling on the exchange rate of the dinar. The minister said:

"I would like to answer this question, Doctor, because it is important. What determines the exchange rate of foreign currencies? Supply and demand. We said—and hence the importance of rescheduling—that we determined Jordan's demand for and supply of foreign currency. We set a gap and made arrangements to cover it while providing a small reserve. When we set the gap, we took into consideration the need for the CBJ to build its foreign currency reserves. So, we created an atmosphere and a supply-demand situation favorable to the Jordanian dinar. According to the concept of comprehensive economy, there is no justification for the Jordanian dinar to be subject to speculation. I leave the floor to Dr Sa'id."

[Al-Nabulsi] "Thank you, minister. In fact, the question is very basic and important. It deals, perhaps, with the most important points of the program as a whole. The program of rectification approved within the agreement with the IMF, and the resulting IMF loans and rescheduling are all integrated measures aimed basically at achieving stability in the exchange rate. The exchange rate at present and in the future is a basic cornerstone. The program views the exchange rate from various perspectives. The rescheduling is a very basic one because, briefly, it is a relief—a kind of relief in the demand for foreign currency that we practice when we commit ourselves to repaying foreign loans and obligations. There is great demand for foreign currency to meet our foreign obligations. This point was treated by the rescheduling. But demand for and supply of foreign currency entails many aspects, all leading to the restoration of the stability of exchange rates. Among these, of course, is what is called local demand for foreign currency for consumption, imports, and satisfying unforseen needs.

"The program involves all these things, but in particular it involves the issue of handling financial policy—budget policy—and the control of the deficit, which is the main goal of the IMF program. This control ultimately aims at containing local demand for foreign currency, whether by the public or private sectors.

"The other part of the program, which also leads to the control of demand, involves treatment of the policies of credit and interest rates. The policy of credit is a basic point in the rectification program, and so is (?squeezing) the growth of credit within certain ceilings in addition to the financial ceilings.

"The IMF also views the treatment of demand from the angle of prices and the structure of interest rates. Here comes the question that was posed at the beginning. Interest rates were floated—left to supply and demand—and the CBJ, of course, is keeping a constant, close watch on the issue of interest rate structures. This watch does not only mean imposing certain structures as used to be the case in the past, but it also means controlling and following these structures so that interest rates will always realize the process of controlling credit and

combating inflation on one hand and achieving the true purposes of credit—providing loans and allowing the private sector to obtain appropriate credits with adequate cost and rates—on the other. All these things, therefore, flow into one channel—the future exchange rate and the need to control it in a way that will restore the required monetary stability."

On whether the rescheduling means abandonment of the policy of linking the dinar to a basket of currencies, the CBJ governor answered:

"Not at all. We announced the policy of linkage more than 1 month ago, and we still adhere to it. But we should not exaggerate our understanding of the relation between this linkage and the exchange rate. The linkage of the dinar to the dollar, any other currency, gold, or a basket of currencies is a minor issue, less important than the policy of the exchange rate as a whole. The aim is to restore the stability of exchange rates through a long-term integrated program and through, as we repeatedly announced, building full reserves. The reserves of the CBJ over the past 2 months have grown satisfactorily. They now amount—and here we are talking about the reserves available in the CBJ and not about the CBJ's net reserve status, that is, the liquid reserves—to more than $200 million when they were approximately $20-30 million 2 months ago. These are the reserves of liquid—available—foreign currency; they do not include the basic reserves—namely, gold—and our assets in the form of loans to foreign countries."

Regarding the dinar's exchange rate in the local and Arab markets and the possibility of making them consistent, the finance minister said:

"I will answer part of this question, and I hope the CBJ governor will answer the rest because you raised many points. First, I would like to assert to anyone who thinks that we—the Jordanian Government and the CBJ—print banknotes and introduce them into the market that this talk is irresponsible and has no grounds at all.

"According to the program approved by the Jordanian Government, which we are implementing, there is a ceiling on what we can borrow from the banking system. This ceiling is 145 million dinars. This ceiling is based on the assumption that Jordan will receive specific amounts of aid from abroad to support the budget. It seems that Jordan will receive more external aid than the amount assumed in the program. Therefore, the ceiling—145 million dinars—will drop by any extra amounts that we receive as aid to the treasury. Hence, I want to affirm that our ability, as treasury and Finance Ministry, to borrow from the banking system is limited and there are ceilings that we cannot go beyond. Under no circumstances will the government's borrowing from the banking system be more than 145 million dinars. Most probably, it will be around 100 million dinars—and this is given the fact that the government's borrowing in 1987 totaled 300 million dinar.

"Hence, the financial policy being adopted now is characterized by a high level of financial discipline, and it is difficult to achieve a discipline higher than that.

"Undoubtedly, there is a problem in the fact that the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar in other markets differs from the rates used in the banking system. This may be due to political and psychological factors unrelated to the government's financial policy. As I explained earlier, the general economic framework for rescheduling, the budget of foreign currencies, and the complementary financial and monetary policies do not justify the establishment of external markets in which the exchange rate of the dinar differs from that applied in the banking system. Now, I leave the floor to Dr Said."

[Al-Nabulsi] "Thank you, minister. Actually, in the question raised by the brother, I noted the main point or basis that there are three markets. Indeed, there are three markets for the Jordanian dinar: A main market, which is the Jordanian market—the Jordanian territory and arena; a Gulf market to some extent; and a market in the occupied territories. This, of course, weakens our control over the three markets through the use of known financial tools and weapons.

"However, I want to begin by what has been mentioned in the question of rumors that the CBJ interfered and introduced money by issuing banknotes and introducing them into the markets without any cover. Actually, I would like to caution against the danger of this talk or rumor and to announce that this is an extension of the rumors that have targeted this country and its economic security for many years and not only nowadays.

"Now we are facing rumors that originate from clearly hostile sides that target our security by continuously spreading rumors in the past years about the devaluation of the dinar and spreading anxiety and distortion among holders of the Jordanian currency. Of course, it is known that as long as the occupied territories, where citizens hold Jordanian currency, are under occupation, the distortion process is easy for the hostile forces because they can use the media available in the occupied territories. At the end of this list comes the rumor a few days ago in one of the occupied territories papers, which was also carried by the Israeli radio, that the Jordanian authorities plan to change the Jordanian currency. This is another new link in a continuous chain of falsehoods.

"Also, this list includes the subject of introducing foreign currencies into the markets. I wonder how can we print foreign currency and introduce it into the market. [laughing] We probably can print local banknotes and introduce them into the market. But, to introduce foreign banknotes into the market—I think the objectives behind this talk are known and clear.

"In fact, I have pointed out that we began a policy of building reserves at the Central Bank, and luckily we have made substantial progress on that score and succeeded in meeting part of the market requirements of these reserves without subjecting the building process to any adverse effects. All that we have floated on the markets was, as has been announced, $20 million to meet immediate needs. I take this opportunity to announce that we will continue the process of intervention by every now and then floating sums to be determined by our perception of market requirements with the object of achieving stable exchange rates and tackling or canceling the speculation that takes place in the occupied land and that seeks to create panic among our people there. Our people there may have come under direct pressure by the Israeli media, and I would like to take this opportunity to reassure whoever has Jordanian currency—be it here, in the occupied land, or in the Gulf—that the Central Bank will, God willing, defend price and intervene to the extent that our resources will allow. We will work gradually to restore stability. I felt I had to address this point. Thank you."

And whether the rescheduling included the addition of new interest to the Kingdom's external debts, the finance minister said:

"As for interest, if the rates are concessionary, the terms covering such interest will be applied here. If they are on commercial terms, commercial terms will be applied. The concessionary interest is constant, but the commercial interest changes. If the maket favors a rise, they will rise and if, on the other hand, the market favors a fall the cost of borrowing will be less as far as the interest rates are concerned. Of course, concerning interest, we will pay interest for the rescheduling of debts. It will be as if we received new loans for which interest will have to be paid according to the same terms applied to the current loans.

"Regarding the dollar rate, I do not see a direct relationship between the value of the dollar and the rescheduling. We have commitments in dollars and other currencies, and our revenues from exports and other areas are in dollars and other currencies. Consequently, if the dollar falls, we may be in a balanced position where we have commitments in dollars and at the same time we will be receiving dollars."

[Al-Nabulsi] "There are two vitally important points: The questioner has asked about interest rates and external changes. He asks about the dollar. Our debts may be at a constant or variable interest rate. They may be in terms of dollars or other currencies. If the interest is constant, the fluctuation of interest rates abroad will make no difference. Variable interest rates may increase or decrease our burdens in serving the debts. Changing interest rates abroad may favor the debtor nations with few exceptions. Regarding currencies, most of the loans, as is known, are in dollars, so the changing value of the dollar abroad naturally has an impact on the value of our foreign debts. As is known, the dollar has been stable against other major currencies, so we do not think our debts will be affected one way or another."

Commenting on the value of Jordan's foreign debts and the possibility of setting up an apparatus to scrutinize indebtedness, the governor said:

"Foreign borrowing is basically the result of three factors. The first is development. Jordan's loans until perhaps the mid-seventies were mostly purely development loans. Most of these loans were obtained from international sources to implement the country's development plans. Most of them were easy loans. They were obtained in accordance with the development plans in effect. This situation lasted to perhaps the mid-seventies when Jordan's indebtedness was very limited. It is known that indebtedness began clearly and gradually to rise in the mid-seventies and continued until the mid-eighties. Actually, Jordan has also incurred upon itself more debts for larger development purposes as the development process began to gain greater momentum than before. The implementation of most of Jordan's major projects was part of this phase, such as the phosphate, potash, or fertilizer extraction projects or the development of the Jordan Valley, and so forth. All major projects were implemented during this phase, that is, the mid-seventies to the mid-eighties.

"The Arab countries and oranizations were basic creditors in this regard. However, since the summit conferences, beginning with the Khartoum summit and down to the Baghdad summit, Jordan's defense burdens grew much larger as is known, and with the growth of Arab aid for defense purposes, Jordan's defense responsibilities grew larger, and most loans at this stage, particularly at the beginning of the eighties, were channelled toward financing defense requirements. After the summit conference, the Arab aid continued to finance the defense effort for several years. However, from 1982 and up to 1985, it began to appear that our defense commitments were greater than the Arab states' payments to Jordan. Consequently, large loans were taken out to finance purely defense needs during that time. That process intensified, particularly after 1985 and has continued to the present. In fact, from 1984 until now, as is known, our foreign debts more than doubled. At the end of 1984 and the beginning of 1985, they amounted to about $4 billion, but rose to more than $8 billion at the end of 1988. This very sharp growth was basically due to defense needs and requirements and to the failure of our foreign currency revenues, which the brothers were committed to pay us, to cope with the defense commitments. This is then the second reason for or second source of foreign indebtedness.

"There is a third source that has been known since the late seventies, although most of it occurred in the eighties. It is foreign borrowing to finance the deficit in the balance of payments or treasury needs. This has also occurred particularly in the last few years, but it was

clearly known during the eighties. Some of these operations, which took place through the so-called syndicated loans, occurred at one time for either development or treasury purposes. In both cases, it was actually a part of the government's borrowing to cover the deficit in the state budget.

"Naturally, the process now ends in the state we are in—the rectification program—whose aim, in the first place, is to limit foreign and internal loans. However, the brother referred to a proposal mentioned in the past, perhaps in this same hall or another one—I have no knowledge of that—concerning a department or specialized side to monitor foreign indebtedness. The reasons I went over explained very clearly that Jordan's foreign indebtedness, as a whole, was either for development or defense purposes. In both cases, I believe that such a monitoring department would have played a limited role. The fact is that there are many sides in the government that can be held responsible for these foreign debts. We can probably say that the correct place to confront these operations is at the executive and legislative authorities in the country and not in a monitoring department or some other such place. Thank you."

The finance minister then commented on that saying:

"There is no doubt that Jordan's foreign debts, including services, have risen in an incorrect way within acceptable criteria, as a percentage of local production or as a percentage of exports. We notice that Jordan's internal debt is governed by law. Unfortunately, the foreign debt is not governed by law. In this ministry, this subject was discussed on various levels and in various councils. The prevailing opinion was that it was appropriate to have criteria and principles to govern foreign debt. We are looking into the possibility of issuing a law governing foreign debts. Applying these words is rather difficult because there are not that many laws in the world that govern foreign debts. We would be experiencing something new. We have to be creative in this way. However, the issue you have raised is currently being studied. The government is aware of it. Such a law may be issued within a reasonable amount of time.

"I would like to make two more points about foreign debt. True, the total of our foreign debt amounts to approximately—if we consider the sum spent from it—$7.2 billion, which is a large sum. However, a large part of this debt are developmental debts, which has been given to us. At the end of the year, their financial flow is always positive. In other words, we get new loans exceeding those we pay. Therefore, when we start thinking of the burden of payment from our foreign currency resources, the true burden is not the whole loan, but a part of that loan. Therefore, this means that despite the fact that the debt is large and should not have happened, I would nevertheless like for you to know that the burdens should take into consideration the fact that part of it can always be rolled over and does not form a true burden. It is a burden; however, at the same time, it brings in resources of foreign currencies, which automatically increase the burden. Thank you."

[Al-Nabulsi] "Excuse me, may I have your permission for a small comment here on what His Excellency said about foreign debt. It is very necessary to remember that the burden of foreign debt, until about 4 or 5 years ago, was acceptable by all criteria. The situation of the Jordanian balance of payments with its foreign currency income clearly enabled us to confront the burdens of the debt services and pay it off. There used to be a balance that was acceptable and sound by all standards. Between 1982 and 1985, the foreign debt increased, as did its servicing. However, up to 1984 or 1985, the state of the balance of payments allowed such a situation—even up to 1986. The transformation came during the past 2 years, in the state of the balance of payments, especially the decrease in the revenues of foreign transfers, which hit the core of the problem."

Regarding the growth in Jordan's economy, His Excellency the finance minister said:

"The point that I would like to add is that we should not say that Jordan's economy has not grown and has not become an economy that is more capable of meeting our needs. If you examine Jordan's exports, you will see that Jordan exports commodities valued at $1 billion. Its own revenues exceed $3 billion. It is unfair to say that Jordan's economy has not grown and that Jordan's investments have not produced anything. We may have some projects that face difficulties. But I would like to point out that every country in the world has projects that face difficulties. These difficulties in Jordan are less than in other countries. We said at our news conference that Jordan has won the sympathy of the industrial countries. The point that was taken into consideration was that Jordan's management of its economic and financial affairs was good."

Then the CBJ governor talked about this issue, and said: "Regarding revenues and expenditures in foreign currency, let me say the following: As His Excellency the minister said, our annual revenues up to 1987 and before the changes that took place in the exchange rates and in the recent balance of payments were valued at $3.5-$4 billion. The Arab aid at the start of the 1980's constituted approximately $1 billion, although the Arab countries that had pledged to extend aid to Jordan have not paid any amount. Therefore, the scheduled Arab aid of $1.25 billion became only $1 billion from the beginning. But even this amount has diminished over the years so that it has become $500-600 million. In fact, transfers are a principal source of revenue for Jordan. Transfers from Jordanian workers abroad are assessed at $1.5 billion a year. There is a third main source of revenue, as His Excellency the minister said. It is the revenue from exports, which has grown over the past years up to $1 billion. Of course, it used to be less than that. These are

the three main sources of revenue. The rest of the revenue in foreign currency, as is known, are from secondary resources, which cover services, foreign loans, and tourism.

"The issue of expenditures was only one problem during the past 1 or 2 years. The bill for imports exceeds $2.5 billion per year. Sometimes it reached 1 billion Jordanian dinars when the exchange rate was approximately $3. This means that the bill was $2.7 billion. What I want to say is that most of our revenues were directed toward (?expenditures). We imported consumer goods and services in general. There is also the issue of the departure of small quantities of capital from the country. These indicate that there was a balance in foreign currency. Foreign loans were also part of our needs on some occasions. We are reconsidering development in imports through the rectification program. There is no doubt that the drop in aid by $5-$6 billion from 1982-87 has burdened us, and that this ammount had to be covered through foreign loans to cover defense requirements."

Asked about the prospects for the moneychangers' reopening, the Central Bank Governor said:

"I have said on a previous occasion that we are now studying the subject. I would like to stress that the practices of some moneychangers in the past may have contributed to a complication of the problem. But we must also note that the size and speculation of moneychangers form only a tiny part of Jordan's economy. Nevertheless, we have nearly completed a reassessment of the matter. We are inclined to suggest that the government allow the moneychangers to resume operations along new, possibly altogether different lines from the past and in such a framework as will better regulate their operations and direct their services to further the country's economy. This is not to say that we are convinced that if the moneychangers behaved better the exhange rate would be different from what it is now. The moneychangers may have only a limited impact. We have for the past 2 hours been talking about the factors affecting the exchange rates. We have come to the conclusion that they are numerous and intertwined and that rescheduling, the rectification program, the exchange rate [as heard] and demand, and the budget, among other things, have a bearing on the exchange rate. Let us see the subject of moneychangers in perspective and, in the meantime, I would like to assure you that we will give the subject its deserved consideration and propose the appropriate legislation to the government."

Concerning the the amount of currencies allowed in and out of Jordan, the Central Bank governor said:

"In fact I can give a very clear answer. Long-standing regulations forbid that Jordanian dinars be allowed out except in small sums. Foreign currencies are now allowed out in sums not exceeding the equivalent of 5,000 Jordanian dinars, and this is a sufficient sum. As for bringing in money, naturally there are no restrictions whatsoever here, but we advise those who bring in foreign currency to declare it in order for them to be allowed to take out sums not exceeding the money they brought in. Suppose a tourist brought $50,000 dollars and wished to take out a sum in excess of 5,000 Jordanian dinars, he must obtain a permit."

Regarding dealing with currencies outside the framework of the banks and licenced financial institutions, the Central Bank governor said:

"Buying and selling foreign currencies is restricted to establishments that have licenses, namely banks and previously moneychangers. The result is that buying and selling foreign currency is limited to banks and financial firms licensed to deal with foreign currencies. This means that citizens buying and selling foreign currency are violating the law. This should not mean that if you want, for example, to give your son $500 you are dealing in currency. I am talking about commerical dealing—that is the transactions of buying and selling seeking to make a profit."

Asked about the interest rate agreed upon with the Paris Club, the finance minister said:

"Regarding the Paris Club, in which the subject of government loans was discussed, the interest rate will be determined through a bilateral agreement between Jordan and each individual government. These agreements, we hope, will be signed over the next 3 months. I explained that the soft interest rates on development loans will remain unchanged. As for the other rates, they will depend on the terms of each agreement, such as the commercial terms of the concerned country signatory to the bilateral agreement."

Asked about the latest IMF loan to Jordan and the future loans, the finance minister said:

"In the first announcement we made about the IMF loan, we said that the IMF gave Jordan $80 million. In today's press release, however, we said the amount is $105 million. The explanation is that the IMF board of directors was considering providing Jordan with an $80 million loan known as a stand-by credit. When the board discussed the subject and studied the evaluation documents, it found that Jordan is implementing good policies in the field of economic readjustment.

"The IMF documents said that Jordan, in a later stage, will be given $25 million as a compensatory financing loan, and that this loan will be provided to Jordan after the IMF evaluates Jordan's economic policies in November and makes sure that these policies are moving in the right direction. When the IMF board of directors read the documents and assessed Jordan's measures, it decided that there was no need for delaying the $25 million and that it was suitable for Jordan to receive the loan immediately; it made a decision to this effect.

"As for the World Bank, we are negotiating with it. We will obtain a loan from the bank to support production, export, and investment within packages of policies complementary to the financial polices. You will notice in the press release that one of the aims of our financial policy is to increase savings. This will provide the base for growing investment. With the World Bank's loan, there will be a backage of policies to benefit from the increase of savings toward increasing production, investment, and export. We hope to obtain this loan, set according to our plan at approximately $45 million, during this year. We will also obtain $105 million over the next year. We also expect to obtain additional parallel credits of some $150 million from other countries."

Asked about the extent to which Jordan will abide by its agreement with the IMF, the finance minister said:

"The features of our commitments are outlined in the press release. We are committed to adopting policies basically in the financial field to curb the deficit in state budget. The cornerstone of the IMF policies, in fact, is the organization of the financial policy. There are complementary measures, namely in the field of setting ceilings for loans and in the field of interest rates. The IMF does not insist on and will not, generally, interfere in the way of spending. This falls within our capacity and is left for our estimations. The important thing is that the budget deficit should annually decrease by 3 to 4.5 pecent of the Gross National Product; that is, the budget deficit should gradually decrease by about 60 million dinars annually. This is our basic commitment to the IMF; all other points are left to the Jordanian Government's policy and evaluation."

The CBJ governor commented on this subject by saying:

"The IMF's policy, with its conditionality [preceding word in English] which you mentioned, is not a single policy for all cases. This is because there are certain standards, which differ from one country to the other and even differ for the same country according to the stage at which it resorts to the IMF. It is known that certain developing countries have continuously resorted to the IMF and, therefore, there is a possibility of applying a stricter conditionality than that applied to a country that resorts to the IMF for the first time.

"In our case in Jordan, we must notice that we are resorting to the IMF for the first time. We are resorting to the IMF on the basis of an honorable development, economic, and financial history and on the basis of the highest recorded growth rate for a developing country in the world. Hence, the conditions to which we committed ourselves before the IMF were very reasonable; in our viewpoint, the majority of these conditions—or even all of them—are desirable. We would like to implement them ourselves but they came within an integrated program with the IMF. But, the process of financial and monetary control is a desirable and, in economic sciences, is a correct process that benefits Jordan. Thank you."

Regarding the restrictions that will be employed to support the treasury, and regarding the dinar's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar, the CBJ governor said:

"Now it is clear that there is a rate of exchange applied by the CBJ, which is around 0.580 [Jordanian dinars to the dollar]. This rate is derived from an equation within the basket of currencies. This rate was recently raised by very small proportion to rectify the situation in view of the recent drop in the dollar's exchange rate.

"Now to the rates used in the unofficial markets, which are actually very diverse. We know there are tangible differences between the CBJ rate and the unofficial market's rate and these differences keep changing.

"We have noticed that these rates do not represent the actual reality, which applies to the real rate—if there is anything that can be called real rate for the Jordanian dinar. This is due to a very clear reason—that these rates are influenced by very small speculations. A person may go to the market and ask for $5,000, which he wants to send to his son who studies abroad. If he cannot find that amount, then he is prepared to pay a higher rate, and so forth. This rate does not represent the rate used in bank deals when banks provide the private sector with foreign currencies.

"Therefore, there is a difference. In the long run, our objective is to have a single rate. This is something on which we agreed with the IMF and on which we also agree among ourselves because it is the correct policy. We do not like to see many different rates in the markets. However, this does not mean that we are prepared to follow the unofficial rate or to continue to raise our official rate. As I mentioned, our approach to this subject is now based on seeking to achieve a stable rate by understanding the reality that exists now. We do this by intervening in the markets every now and then and building the reserves that will enable the CBJ on the long run to intervene and bring the rates closer to the rates it has announced.

"Therefore, in the short run, the two-rate phenomenon exists. In the long run, we will try to sense the markets to know the real level of the dinar's exchange rate and continue to intervene to achieve the greatest possible stability of these rates. At the current time, we are not thinking about changing the CBJ's announced exchange rate."

Ladies and gentlemen, these have been highlights of the proceedings of the news conference held by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and CBJ Governor Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi on the agreement to reschedule Jordan's foreign debts.

Sudanese Interior Minister Leaves Amman 24 Jul
JN2407182389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and interior minister, left Amman this morning for Damascus after a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he met with Crown Prince Hasan, His Majesty the king's deputy, and delivered a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council.

He was seen off at the airport by Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; the general secretary of the Foreign Ministry; a number of officials; and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

Syrian Forces Fire SAM-7 at Israeli Jets

JN2507130689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] A security report from Beirut says the Syrian Army this afternoon fired three SAM-7 missiles at two Israeli Phantom warplanes flying at a low altitude over Syrian and Palestinian positions in the Rashayya sector in western al-Biqa', close to the Syrian-Lebanese border. The area is 22 km from the security belt, which was established and occupied by Israel in southern Lebanon.

According to the same sources, the missiles missed their targets. This is the second incident of its kind in 5 months.

PFLP Threatens 'U.S. Interests' in Region

NC2507120889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has warned that the U.S. interests in the region will be threatened, if it does not respond to the national and political rights of the Palestinian people.

'Guarded Calm' in Beirut, Mountain

NC2407152589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Guarded calm prevails along the combat lines in the capital, the suburb, and the mountain following the security breaches which took place this morning on the combat lines of al-Ma'rufiyah, Bsaba, Dahr al-Wahsh, and 'Arayya in the mountain. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, reports from the south mention that Israeli military planes overflew Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps at approximately 1415 today, conducting a series of mock raids at a low altitude and drawing antiaircraft fire.

Joint Hizballah-Amal Statement Issued

LD2407125989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The revolutionary Hizballah and Amal Movement of Lebanon issued a joint statement in Tehran which stresses the importance of their continued struggle against Zionist occupiers, Maronites, the regime based on sectarian advantages and Michel 'Awn's gang, until Lebanon is completely free and a fair political system rules in that country.

The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As we are leaving Tehran, after having had the honor of being here on the 40th day of the mourning period for the leader of the ummah, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution in the world, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni; after reaffirming our allegiance to the jurisconsult vice regency [vali-e faqih], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and expressing our condolences to His Eminence and the Muslim Iranian officials and nation over the loss of the dear imam; and after conveying the wish of Muslims and oppressed people all over the world, especially in Lebanon, for God Almighty to assist the leaders of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran and her combative children to follow the line of His Eminence the imam and fulfill his ideals and goals and divine-political testament, which showed the way to all the oppressed and revolutionaries to prosperity, honor, and freedom from foreign influence and rule, we gladly inform all our brothers in Iran and Lebanon that the Amal Movement delegation, led by brother Nabih Birri, and the Hizballah delegation, led by brother Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, held several meetings during their stay in Islamic Iran. These meetings were held to continue and conclude their Damascus talks under the supervision of Brother Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, and brother Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, in accordance with the Damascus agreement, and the following decisions were made:

1. The interests of the Lebanese Muslims lie in the full implementation of the agreement signed between the Hizballah and Amal Movements, joint efforts to normalize mutual relations, forgetting the past, and mutual cooperation based on a spirit of responsibility and brotherhood.

2. The two sides reached an agreement on taking repeated practical steps and undertook to seriously, confidently, and gladly do so. They considered these practical steps the best consolation to the Lebanese Muslims after the death of Imam Khomeyni, who constantly stressed the importance of unity among the Muslims and the oppressed.

3. The two sides stressed that their fight against Zionist occupiers and Maronites, the regime based on sectarian privileges and Michel 'Awn's gang, who are protected by Zionists and the criminal regime of Iraq, is a united struggle, which will continue until Lebanon is completely free, the regime based on sectarian privileges is overthrown, and a fair political system, based on equality and honorable coexistence, rules in Lebanon, so that Lebanon can take up its position in the confrontation against usurper Israel.

4. The two sides declared their total support for the Tehran declaration, which was issued by Lebanese political and national parties and groups, and expressed their support and willingness to implement it, with the cooperation of all groups. In this respect they stressed the importance of the existing concord between Islamic Iran and Syria and the significance of this concord in fortifying the factions opposing Zionism and submissive solutions.

5. The two sides expressed their extreme gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for supervising the talks and striving to increase the spirit of brotherhood, which paves the way for an honorable future towards the realization of unity among Lebanese Muslims and their greatness and glory.

[Signed] The Amal Movement; Hizballah

Clandestine on Joint Statement

NC2507085289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] In a joint statement issued in Tehran, Hizballah and the Amal Movement have asserted their full concurrence with each other on the need to implement the articles stipulated by the Damascus agreement signed by the two sides, and to take joint practical steps to normalize their relations, bury their differences forever, and achieve full integration of the two sides.

Hizballah and the Amal Movement stressed that they are fellow strugglers in their identical battle against Zionist occupation, political Maronism, the sectarian regime, and against 'Awn's group, which is backed by Zionists and the Iraqi regime.

The statement says: As we leave Tehran, having had the honor of participating in celebrations marking the passage of 40 days since the death of the nation's leader, and the pride of the Muslim revolution in the world, Imam Khomeyni, may the Almighty sanctify his soul;

After voicing allegiance to his eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, and offering to him, to brother officials, and to the Muslim people in Iran our heartfelt condolences on the great loss;

And having expressed the hopes of all Muslims and oppressed in the world, particularly in Lebanon, that the Almighty will guide the leaders and the sons of the Islamic revolution to further progress along the charted course of the late Imam, and toward realizing his goals and implementing his divine political will, which should guide all the oppressed and revolutionaries for the sake of dignity, independence, and liberation;

We are pleased to announce to our brothers in Iran and Lebanon that the Amal movement's delegation, under brother Nabih Birri, and the Hizballah delegation, under his eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, held working sessions during their visit to Iran, to continue the talks which had begun in Damascus under the sponsorship of brother Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister.

In accordance with the agreement signed by the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Damascus, the two sides have decided the following:

1. The interests of Muslims are preserved only through full implementation of the articles of the Damascus agreement and through taking joint practical steps toward normalizing relations, burying differences forever, and achieving integration in a brotherly and responsible spirit;

2. The two sides agreed on a number of pratical steps in detail, and undertook to implement these steps in a serious and satisfactory way. The two sides find in these steps the best condolence for Muslims in Lebanon after the death of Imam Khomeyni, may the Almighty gratify his soul, who has always stressed the need for unity among the Muslims and oppressed;

3. The two sides asserted that their battle against Zionist occupation, political Maronism, the sectarian regime, and the 'Awn group, which is backed by the Zionists and the criminal Iraqi regime, is one and the same battle. This battle will continue until we liberate the country, abolish the privileges system, and establish a just political regime built on equality and dignified coexistence, and oriented toward confrontation with usurper Israel;

4. The two sides reiterated their full compliance with the statement issued in Tehran by the Lebanese Muslim and nationalist powers and parties, and their determination to implement this agreement in cooperation with all the parties. The two sides highly appreciate the importance of the existing alliance between Muslim Iran and Syria, and the role of this alliance in strengthing the anti-Israeli and anti-defeatist front;

5. The two sides offered thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting and sponsoring the talks, and for its eforts, the opportunities it has granted, and for providing a favorable atmosphere which helped foster a brotherly spirit and open wide horizons for future unity and dignity among Muslims in Lebanon.

Amal Radio Describes Resistance Activities

NC2507061389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] In the South, the Islamic resistance has declared that a mine planted by a resistance group on the 'Alman-Bayt Siryan road 2 days ago, went off as a Zionist enemy patrol was passing on the road yesterday, killing or wounding a number of the patrol members and creating a state of hysteria in the enemy's ranks. The attack prompted the enemy to shell Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, and Qa'Qa'iyat al-Jisr, causing a number of casualties among the citizens.

Meanwhile, Zionist occupation forces shelled a number of hills that overlook western al-Biqa' south of Bi'r al-Dahr yesterday morning, causing a number of fires.

Mashariqah Returns From Hungary 23 Jul
JN2307185089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front, this evening returned to Damascus following a several-day visit to Hungary at the invitation of the Hungarian People's Patriotic Front. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Receives Jordanian Senator
JN2207181789 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received Bahjat al-Talhuni, Jordanian Senate member and former speaker of the House of Representatives. Shakir Is'id, head of the People's Assembly Arab and foreign affairs committee, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus attended the meeting.

Qaddurah welcomed al-Talhuni and praised his nationalist and pan-Arab efforts and wished him a successful and happy visit to Damascus. Qaddurah affirmed the importance of promoting bilateral relations, especially in the parliamentry sphere. He also stressed the need for continued efforts to promote these relations.

Al-Talhuni expressed happiness over visiting Syria and the generous welcome accorded him. He appreciated Syria's pan-Arab stands and hosting of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] headquarters. He referred to President Hafiz al-Asad's support and care for the APU, including the allocation of a piece of land on which to build the APU headquarters, granting immunity and care for its employees, and other means of support to help it carry out its tasks and the pan-Arab objectives for which it was established.

Commentary on Syrian-USSR Relations Anniversary
JN2207135189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The relations of cooperation and friendship binding Syria and the Soviet Union are undoubtedly one of the important and effective factors influencing the events and situation in the region, especially concerning the equation of the Arab-Zionist conflict. These relations are based on firm foundations and genuine pillars built on joint understanding between the two countries. These relations have dug their roots deep because they are the outcome of an objective reality and a future vision based on Syria's forward position in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism, as well as on what the Soviet Union stands for as a faithful friend backing Arab rights and struggles and supporting a just, comprehensive peace in the region through seeking and demanding Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national, inalienable rights over their national soil.

On this basis, the diplomatic and official Syrian-Soviet relations, the 45th anniversary of which is celebrated by the two countries today, are strategic, dynamic, and continuously developing relations in all militant, political, economic, and trade fields aimed to serve the well-being and interest of the Syrian Arab and the Soviet peoples.

After the launching of the Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has entrenched these relations through the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries and through the promotion and consolidation of the joint interests and common objectives based on mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, nonintervention in internal affairs, and promoting the continued and comprehensive bilateral cooperation in the interest of the Syrian Arab people and the Soviet people.

President Hafiz al-Asad stressed this point when he said: We will constantly promote our relations with the socialist countries and the Soviet Union. This is what we have decided. We have decided to promote our relations with the socialist countries and the Soviet Union collectively and individually and to take these relations to an advanced stage.

Extremely concerned about and faithful to its militant principles and pan-Arab principles, Syria views the promotion of the relations of cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union as an important component for supporting Arab rights and struggle. Undoubtedly, the Soviet support for the primary and focal Arab cause—the Palestine question—effectively contributes toward creating a strong front of friends and allies on the international level and at all international forums, organizations, and establishments that support Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy to deter it from carrying out its conspiratorial and liquidatory schemes and its terrorist and expansionist policy.

Syria, which continues the march of struggle, considers that rectifying the Arab position and sticking to the course of steadfastness and confrontation against the expansionist Zionist aggression requires, among other things, expanding the front of supporters for Arab rights. This also requires deterring and confronting the enemy's facist, terrorist, and racist policies.

For all that, the developed relations and strong and deep-rooted friendship between Syria and the Soviet Union constitute an important and major factor for curbing the Zionist-imperialist aggression and expansionism in the region.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Tanay Under House Arrest

LD2407154989 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1333 GMT 24 Jul 89

["Pool" item]

[Text] Jeddah, July 24 (QNA)—Afghan sources in Peshawar said the defence minister in Kabul's regime Shahnawaz Tanay was put under house arrest following a disagreement with the leader of the regime Najibullah.

Saudi daily (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT) quoted the sources as saying the new development was part of the old conflict between the two factions of the Communist Party "Khalq" and "Parcham". The defence minister is leader of the Khalq (Masses) Party and Najibullah is leader of the splinter Parcham (Flag) Party.

The sources said Najibullah blamed the defence minister for failing to stop the missile attacks by mujahidin on the capital, Kabul.

Long-Range Weapons' Use on Jalalabad Noted

LD2407184789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Following a defeat on the battlefield and after losing the capability to fight face to face, joint enemy forces—which include a large number of Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis, and a number of murdering groups—are using long-range weapons to continue their fight against the homeland and against our people.

Expressing this fact, an Armed Forces source told the BAKHTAR military section that the joint enemy forces, supported by the Artillery Corps XI of Pakistan, launched attacks with heavy weapons on security forces and residential areas outside Jalalabad city yesterday. Two Armed Forces personnel were martyred and six were injured.

Our faithful, war-weary compatriots strongly condemn this satanic and unforgivable act perpetrated by these murderers of the people of Afghanistan and their protectors. Our compatriots are completely confident that the cries of the homeland's orphans and widows will catch up with the perpetrators of these crimes sooner or later and they will be punished for their sinister and satanic actions.

Bomb Injures 7 in Kabul; Rebel Hideouts Raided

BK2407151089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 24 (AFP)—Afghan security forces claimed to have seized an array of weapons and ammunition during a sweep of suspected rebel hideouts Monday [24 July] as a bomb exploded in a restaurant here and injured seven people.

Government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the sweep of rebel hideouts was a joint operation by the Afghan Armed Forces and resulted in some arrests. He did not say how many had been detained.

The operation covered the eastern, western and southwestern districts of the capital and led to the seizure of 66 mortar shells and launches, two anti-tank mines, two Egyptian-made Sacker-30 rockets and a large quantity of ammunition, Mr. Amani said.

The bomb exploded in a restaurant in the city centre during afternoon off-peak hours, injuring five diners and two waiters and causing extensive damage, witnesses said. Six of the seven injured were admitted to the Jumhuriyat Hospital, where they were said to be out of danger in satisfactory condition.

The blast destroyed furniture, sent a ceiling fan crashing down and sent glass flying into the streets as the staff prepared for the rush of evening diners.

A cook at the restaurant said the bomb was believed to have been planted in a corner by someone who had come in to eat earlier.

Mr. Amani blamed the explosion on "extremists," a euphemism for mujahidin rebels battling to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Kabul was free of rebel rocketting Monday, which the spokesman credited to the security sweep.

On Sunday, suspected mujahidin rebels fired 11 rockets into the city, killing three people and injuring 10, he said.

Mujahidin Capture 2 Posts in Nangarhar Province

BK2507022489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Reports say that mujahidin in Afghanistan have captured two posts and killed 16 soldiers in Nangarhar Province. In another operation in the Jalalabad area, the mujahidin killed 11 soldiers of the Kabul regime.

8-Party Coalition on Takhar Killings

LD2407192189 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The killing of 38 mujahideen as a result of inflighting between two groups of the Peshawar based 7-party alliance was sharply condemned today, by the eight-party Afghan Islamic coalition, which called for punishment of the culprits.

Eastern and Western enemies, said a statement, are trying to deviate "our holy defence" for establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

With this end in view, the coalition said, "enemies are hiring internal mercenaries to deal blow on the holy jihad of the Afghan Muslims."

Forces loyal to Golbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan reportedly killed 38 of their brothers and co-fighters belonging to Burhanuddin Rabbani's Jamiyat-e Eslami group in the northern province of Takhar recently.

Rabbani has publicly accused the Hezb-e Eslami of manslaughter, and called for the punishment of the killers.

Both groups belong to the 7-party alliance which following the Russian withdrawal last February hastily set up an all-Pashto interim government ignoring the rights of other ethnic groups, especially the Iran based 8-party coalition.

As predicted the so-called interim government has not only proved a complete failure, but has enabled outsiders to the Afghan issue such as the United States and the Wahhabi regime of Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to meddle in and deviate the Islamic struggle.

Islamic Iran has been working hard to bring all Afghan mujahideen on a common platform to ensure a broad-based popular rule, and has warned them against the dangers of disunity.

'Interim' Ministry Officials Tour Liberated Areas

BK2407112289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Afghan interim government undertook an extensive tour of the liberated Konarha Province and reviewed the measures taken by local administration for supply of foodgrains and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities. It was recommended that the World Food Organization should be contacted to seek the supply of food of its shortage in Afghanistan's liberated areas.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin recaptured the strategic military post of (Karagi), southeast of Jalalabad. They also attacked (Takhar) military post in Zabol Province killing a number of Kabul regime soldiers along with their officers.

Hekmatyar on Recognition of Mujahidin Government

JN2107144089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Jul 89 p 9

[Interview with Golbuddin Hekmatyar, foreign minister of the Afghan Mujahidin Provisional Government, by Hasan Tantawi in Quetta; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Tantawi] What is the delay in Pakistan's recognition of the mujahidin government?

[Hekmatyar] The people and Government of Pakistan are doing far more good for the mujahidin than recognition. The mujahidin government was established in Pakistan, with the government hosting 3.5 million refugees over 11 years of war. Pakistan has not succumbed to Soviet and Indian pressure. Pakistan has adopted a supportive position under all circumstances. For all intents and purposes, the Pakistanis recognize the mujahidin government. I think the government is established in the interior, and once it is in operation, many countries, including Pakistan, will extend recognition to the mujahidin government. We are not a government-in-exile. We are a government on the ground, inasmuch as the mujahidin controls over 95 percent of Afghan territory.

[Tantawi] And why has not Iran also extended recognition?

[Hekmatyar] The Iranian Government is now working toward an improvement in relations with the USSR. The two sides are exchanging envoys all the time and interests come into play. Such circumstances have to do with the delay in the Iranian Government's recognition of the mujahidin government.

[Tantawi] When will the mujahidin government move to the interior?

[Hekmatyar] Four ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, did move inside Afghanistan. And here we are talking from inside the country and you can see for yourself the extent of the mujahidin's control over Afghan territory and the security under which the people of the cities and villages are living. All the mujahidin government's ministries are planning to move in and set up office inside the country. We are now in the process of closing our offices in Islamabad and Peshawar. We are retaining only liaison offices.

[Tantawi] What about the security aspect of the government offices?

[Hekmatyar] God willing, there will not be any problems. Upwards of 95 percent of our territory has been liberated, and our forces maintain a presence everwhere. Only yesterday I returned from Jalalabad, and here we are today in Quetta. In each of the areas we visit, we stage mass rallies. Over the past 2 weeks I attended numerous such gatherings in five districts. [passage omitted]

[Tantawi] Where does the U.S. Government stand on the question of recognition of the mujahidin government?

[Hekmatyar] We are in the dark as to the American position. Failure of the United States to extend recognition has held up recognition by certain nations, some of which attach odd conditions before they will be prepared to do so.

[Tantawi] What are these?

[Hekmatyar] They will recognize the government once it is established inside the country. They stipulate that the government be representative of the people and that it have territory under its control. All these conditions have already been met by the mujahidin government. And, as I have already pointed out, we enjoy wide grassroots support. We just do not understand the American position.

[Tantawi] But the U.S. Administration has announced the appointment of a resident representative to the mujahidin government.

[Hekmatyar] We have not yet decided whether to accept the representative, and the matter is still under consideration. We will accept the U.S. representative immediately following American recognition of the mujahidin government, and not before.

[Tantawi] Will you embark on a political move any time soon?

[Hekmatyar] Yes, we are making arrangements for a third round. This will take place only after the ministries are firmly installed inside liberated territory.

[Tantawi] What is the truth about Russian-Afghan negotiations concerning the prisoners?

[Hekmatyar] No such negotiations are taking place. There are contacts according to a Russian wish to reach understanding on the prisoner issue. We favor such and other negotiations. It will not be enough, though, to talk only about prisoners. There is the more important issue of Soviet arms shipments to the Najibullah regime—including Scud missiles and cluster bombs, as well as pilots. And then there is the question of war reparations and the mines maps.

[Tantawi] The new arms deliveries to the Kabul regime are said to have adversely affected the mujahidin. What do you think?

[Hekmatyar] The Kabul regime has taken delivery of huge amounts of weaponry. The Russians want the Kabul government to stay in power at any cost. They have supplied them with three types of the Scud missile—B, C, and D, with ranges of 80, 180, and 300 km, respectively. The Russians have also made available to the Kabul regime the internationally banned cluster bombs and a new type of high altitude bomber that flies at 12-13 km without having to fly low to strafe their targets. These bombers also use laser beams in pinpointing their targets to elude the anti-aircraft defenses. This is the ultimate in military technology. While I was in Jalalabad, we heard a pilot reporting to his command spotting five small cars, wondering to which side they belonged, and asking whether he had to hit them or not. We have a recording of this incident for whover wants to know what the Russians are doing to support the Najibullah regime.

[Tantawi] There have been news agency reports that Indian experts and pilots are fighting alongisde the Najibullah forces. Is this true?

[Hekmatyar] They are true. There are also Russian pilots fighting with the Najibullah forces. They take off from the Bahdadi base in Mazar-e Sharif close to the border with Russia. India wants to play a role favoring Russian interests and says it will not accomodate a government of Muslim extremists in Afghanistan.

[Tantawi] What are your foreign policy priorities?

[Hekmatyar] We are in touch will all parties to reassure them that we pose no threat to any. We have a need for many peaceful years. Afghanistan is devastated, and we will much time to rehabilitate vital installations, production centers, and farms and infrastructure destroyed by the Soviets. Not to mention the presense of 30 million mines planted by the Soviets in our country. We do not interfere in anyone's affairs, and we would like to be left alone. We are a peaceful, Muslim people who want to extend a hand of cooperation to all parties. We want to secure a decent life for our people, who have suffered enough of Soviet occupation and communist rule. Afghan families have been torn apart, and our people have paid dearly for their freedom. Our people have suffered as have no other.

[Tantawi] There are reported to be differences within the seven mujahidin parties. How true is this?

[Hekmatyar] I can tell you there are no differences. The mujahidin government has won acceptance all around and was set up in record time. We have decided to hold free and democratic elections within 6 months of the creation of the provisional government. Six months have passed since then. The elections will be held on schedule in the liberated territory and in the areas occupied by evacuees. We will also issue a permanent constitution, which will be the basis for the permanent government.

Bangladesh

5 Killed, 20 Injured in Chittagong Bomb Blast

BK2007045489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, five people were killed and 20 seriously injured in a bomb blast on a motor launch in the Chittagong Hill Tracts yesterday. Reports reaching Dhaka said the explosion occurred when the passengers were alighting.

50 Fishermen Killed, 100 Missing in Tidal Wave

BK2507032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Rains and floods have claimed over 200 lives in several parts of the country. [passage omitted]

In the neighboring Bangladesh, 50 fishermen were killed in a tidal wave which hit the southern coastal part of the country on Sunday [23 July]. About 100 others are reported missing.

Soviet Envoy Calls on President Ershad 23 Jul

BK2307155989 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vitaliy Smirnov called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. The Soviet envoy informed the president of the progress of bilateral cooperation in different fields. They also discussed matters of mutual interest.

India

Police Open Fire on Kashmir Muslim Demonstrators

BK2407134089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, July 24 (AFP)—Police opened fire on Muslim demonstrators in Anantnag District in southern Kashmir Valley Monday [24 July], seriously injuring three youths, as tension spread over the theft of holy relics from a mosque here, officials said.

The decision to open fire and call in regular Army reinforcements in Anantnag, 48 kilometers (30 miles) south of here, came after police lathi [baton] charges and volleys of teargas shells had failed to control the crowd which hurled stones and damaged at least 12 vehicles, the officials said.

Tension flared throughout the Kashmir Valley, a popular northern Indian tourist resort, after relics believed to be from a Muslim saint and from the Prophet Muhammed were reported stolen Saturday from a Srinagar mosque.

Police meanwhile said they had discovered the missing relics hidden in the premises of the Srinagar mosque in which they had been enshrined. They attributed their disappearance Saturday night to miscreants.

State Chief Minister Farook Abdullah in a statement blamed the trouble on neighbouring Pakistan, which does not recognize India's sovereignty over predominantly Muslim Kashmir. He charged that Pakistani agents had "engineered" the violence.

5 More Lok Sabha Opposition Members Resign 25 Jul

BK2507085389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Five more Lok Sabha members belonging to some opposition parties have resigned. Three of them submitted their resignation letters immediately after the House met this morning at the secretary general's table, while others did so a little latter. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, announced that he has accepted the resignations. With this the total number of resignations has gone up to 78.

Ministers Assail Opposition Move

BK2407165089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Seventy-three Lok Sabha members belonging to several opposition parties and groups have resigned. Sixty-eight of them submitted the resignation immediately after the house met for the day. Others did so later. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, has announced the acceptance of the resignations.

Today's resignations were a sequel to the decision of the leaders of the 12 opposition parties, which met in New Delhi yesterday, on the issue of the CAG [Comptroller and Auditor General] report.

The opposition move came in for severe criticism from ruling party members as well as from several other opposition parties.

The parliament affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, has said that the opposition is fully aware that the elections are around the corner and this being the last session only 10 or 12 days are left for parliamentary business. Yet, they want to become martyrs by shedding just one drop of blood, that too, which is not genuine, Mr Bhagat observed.

Describing it as a political gimmick, Mr Bhagat said that Mr Rajiv Gandhi will come back to power on the crest of a popular vote. [passage omitted]

The present session of Parliament will continue despite the resignations by opposition members from the Lok Sabha. This was announced in a statement by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, and four ministers of state—Mr M.M. Jacob, Mrs Shiela Dikshit, Mr P Namgyal, and Mr R.K. Malaviya.

The ministers said the government does not run away from challenges as it is responsible to the people, who have elected their representatives. They said the government will face the situation on the basis of its strength derived from the mandate given by the people.

The ministers said that they have no doubt that the opposition members of Parliament, who have abused the trust reposed on them by the people by running away from Parliament, will be rejected by the same people.

The ministers regretted that over the last 1 week, the forum of Parliament has been misused by the opposition parties to obstruct discussion on matters of national importance. Opposition violated all norms of parliamentary decorum and dignity to make a mockery of parliamentary proceedings.

The ministers charged the opposition that they resorted to such action as they realized that their accusation would be exposed once the discussion is taken up on the CAG report. They pointed out that it was the opposition members, Mr Madhu Dandavate and Mr Jaipal Reddy in the Lok Sabha, and Mr L.K. Advani and Mr A.B. Vajpayee in the Rajya Sabha, who demanded a debate on the report. After realizing that the discussion would reveal that the approval for the Bofors deal was accorded by the then finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, the opposition started feeling uneasy. Mr V.P. Singh himself ran away from the debate because he knew that he would be thoroughly exposed. They stressed that the CAG report makes it clear that the prime minister wanted the evaluation procedures in the deal to be streamlined and tightened. They asserted that the reports of the CAG are open to criticism not only by Parliament but also by the Public Accounts Committee.

The ministers said it is extremely strange that the opposition should suddenly become champions of constitutional propriety. It is this very opposition which did not hesitate to cast aspersions on the honesty and integrity of our judiciary in the Bhopal gas tragedy case and the Indira Gandhi assassination case.

Expressing their surprise at the initiative taken by Mr N.T. Rama Rao on the resignation issue, the ministers said he has been indicted by the Andhra Pradesh high court in seven cases of corruption and misuse of power. They asked: Do people who have headed a government indicted by the High Court and the Supreme Court and then caught redhanded tapping telephones have any moral right to speak with the sense of injured innocence? [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, opposition leaders have demanded the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and holding of fresh elections. The Janata Dal leaders, Mr V.P. Singh, and Madhu Dandavate and Telugu Desam leader, Mr Madhava Reddy, were addressing a press conference in New Delhi after submitting the resignations. Mr Madhu Dandavate said the opposition leaders had resigned from the Lok Sabha as they had no confidence in the government. He said the confidence in the government was decided in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha and that was why they had not resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Meets Narasimha Rao 24 Jul

BK2507030889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0030 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] The Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, called on the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi yesterday evening. During a 90-minute meeting, Mr Yaqub Khan apprised Mr Narasimha Rao of his efforts to convene the ministerial meeting of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the discussions he had with the Sri Lankan leaders in Colombo. Mr Narasimha Rao said: On no account, the SAARC activities should be held up.

Both sides were of the view that certain areas of business of the SAARC could be decided through correspondence. These include approval of the budget and extension of tenure of the SAARC secretary general.

On bilateral issues, the two sides warmly applauded the substantial progress made by the joint commission [between the two countries]. They reiterated their determination to work together and peruse vigorously all vital economic issues affecting the Third World. The Pakistani foreign minister is scheduled to meet the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today.

Minister Views Relations With Sri Lanka, Pakistan

BK2307030589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has expressed the hope that Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr Wijeratne's visit to Delhi will help settle the PKF [peacekeeping force] withdrawal issue. Speaking to newsmen in Calcutta, he, however, said that no exact date has been fixed for Mr Wijeratne's visit. Mr Singh reiterated that India is always ready to discuss the PKF withdrawal issue with Sri Lanka.

In reply to a question, Mr Singh said the prime minister's visit to Pakistan has yielded positive results toward normalizing bilateral relations.

Sikh Leader Criticizes Center's Punjab Policies

BK2207085589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The former chief minister of Punjab, Mr S.S. Barnala, has urged the Center to find a solution to the Punjab problem within the framework of the Longowal accord. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Barnala said if the government thinks that Akalis are a hurdle in finding a solution, it should resolve the tangle without their involvement. He said the Sikhs have never demanded a separate state and the issue of Khalistan is being raised to confuse the people. Though the terrorists do not have popular support, still their number is

increasing because of the wrong policies of the government, Mr Barnala alleged. He said the government must establish its credibility by winning the confidence of the people of Punjab.

Replying to questions, he said he is for the unity among the Akali's factions, but there is no meeting ground yet, he added.

Cyclone, Storm, Floods Kill More Than 200

BK2507011289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0030 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Rains and floods wrecked havoc in Maharashtra and several other parts of the country. In the Marathawada region of Maharashtra, more than 100 people were killed in cyclone and storm. Official reports in Bombay said the storm, which originated from the Bay of Bengal on Saturday [22 July], flooded rivers, marooned thousands of villages, and disrupted transport and communication links across Maharashtra. Bombay remained virtually cut off from the rest of the country. The railways announced cancellation of several trains to and from Bombay due to breaches in the tracks. Two passengers of a Pune-bound local train died yesterday as two bodies were washed away when a small bridge between Kamshet and Badgaon section of the Central Railway collapsed. The accident brought the entire railway traffic between Pune and Bombay to a halt. The 152 Down Rajdhani Express leaving New Delhi for Bombay has been canceled as its correspondent service from Bombay has been canceled.

In Orissa, at least 26 people are feared killed as the cyclonic storm caused by Saturday's depression in the Bay of Bengal swept through coastal areas of the state.

In Andhra Pradesh, rescue and relief operations are in full swing in the flood-hit areas. The death toll in the state has gone up to 111.

The Kerala government has instructed the senior revenue officials to assess the damage caused by rains and floods in the state and give priority to relief operations.

Iran

Secret Talks With U.S. on Hostages Revealed

LD2407123189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1058 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA)—A leading newspaper Monday said that Iran and the United States had held two rounds of secret talks under auspices of speaker of Iran's parliament Hashemi-Rasfanjani on the release of Western hostages captured in Lebanon by pro-Tehran groups.

Quoting European diplomatic sources in the Jordanian capital, AL-SIYASAH added that one of the two rounds of talks was held before the official visit by Hashemi-Rasfanjani to the Soviet Union last June 20, while the second round was held after the visit, describing the two sessions as "useful and positive" for both countries.

It pointed out that the Iranian delegation asserted to its American counterpart during (?the talks), whose venue was not mentioned by the source, that the hostages would be transferred directly to Iran after Rasfanjani wins the presidential elections, slated for next August.

It indicated that the Iranian delegation will get in return from the American side guarantees to release two Lebanese youths who are detained in France and West Germany after Hashemi-Rasfanjani wins the presidential elections.

European sources believed that the leakage of news on the talks had annoyed some Arab countries and strained relations between two unnamed Arab capitals and the U.S. Administration, the paper concluded.

A round of secret talks between Tehran and Washington has been revealed in 1986 involving supply of weapons to be used against Iraq prior [to] the ceasefire on August 20, 1987, in return for release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

Paper Reports on Talks

JN2507141789 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-SIYASAH—European diplomatic sources have disclosed to AL-SIYASAH that two rounds of secret talks between Iran and the U.S. Administration have taken place; one before Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union and the other after the visit.

The sources said that Deputy Majlis Speaker Mehdi Kharrubi, who acted as Khomeyni's personal representative to the hajj, was the key Iranian figure in these negotiations.

The European sources expressed the belief that leaking the information about new secret talks between Iran and Washington had annoyed some Arab states and strained relations between two Arab capitals and Washington. This strain has taken various forms in the past 2 weeks.

According to information leaked from the meetings, which were held under the auspices of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian delegation stressed that the European and American hostages in Lebanon will be transferred to Iran directly after Hashemi-Rafsanjani's almost certain

victory in the presidential elections. In return, assurances were given that two young Lebanese men imprisoned in Europe—Anis Naqqash held in France and Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah held in the FRG—will be released after Hashemi-Rafsanjani's victory in the elections.

Press on Anniversary of U.S. Downing of Airliner

KAYHAN on U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD0507135189 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Terrorism is a watchword in American foreign policy, commented an Iranian daily Wednesday [5 July].

"The most flagrant act of U.S. terrorism is America's covert war against the Islamic Republic of Iran," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Terrorism has been defined by Washington officialdom as any kind of insurgency, armed resistance and civil strife directed against America and its allies.

Thus any act of struggle by a person, a group, a community or a nation to circumvent the policies forged by the United States falls under the category of "terrorism," the daily said.

Therefore, the case of the downing of the Iranian passenger plane is "a perfect example of U.S. retaliatory action against the Islamic Republic of Iran's resistance to America's destabilising policies in the region".

An Iranian Airbus A-300 was missiled down by the USS Vincennes while flying enroute from Bandar-e Abbas to Dubayy along the commercial flight coridor on the Persian Gulf on July 3 last year. All the 290 passengers and crew on board were martyred.

The July 3 tragedy was confirmation that the U.S. "fostered terrorism" in its quest for world domination, it said.

The daily suggested that the U.S. policy of generating crises and anarchy in countries which have professed independence and freedom would never triumph in Iran.

U.S. state terrorism is "not a new concept", it has been present and a major force in U.S. foreign policies for nearly a hundred and seventy five years. It just lurked in the background assuming "more subtle names".

"Almost all the U.S. terrorism's actions have gone unanswered", the daily said but added that the moral guilt of the U.S. in the genocide of 290 lives can never be exonerated.

"To avenge the deaths of the innocent martyrs of the July 3, 1988 air mishap is the wish of the nation, now more than ever before," concluded KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Daily Assails U.S. 'Terrorism'

NC0807122089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The United States—Symbol of Government-Sponsored Terrorism"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The United States is a symbol of terrorism and has constantly endeavored to eliminate difficulties, obstacles in its path, and stalemates by resorting to government-sponsored terrorism. The fact that Washington is still not ready to accept responsibility for its massive intentional crime and that it terms it an "appropriate defensive measure" indicates that such measures are considered an acceptable expedient in Washington's political lexicon, which is based on savagery and crime. The United States considered it its birthright to aim at an Iranian passenger airliner which was proceeding on its scheduled route to a neighboring country and to shoot it down. [passage omitted]

Even if the United States considers the perpetration of heinous atrocities to its own benefit and supports this, it is clear that committing such dastardly crimes against humanity cannot bring any honor to the United States or benefit to the criminals. [passage omitted]

At present, Washington is mired in an impasse of contradiction, and all its axes of propaganda belie its political and military actions clearly and have exposed the true face of the U.S. echelons.

Washington has not even tendered an apology to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran or the international community for the missile attack by the "Vincennes" on the Iranian passenger airliner. On the contrary it has tried to justify its crimes by using its international levers. This phenomenon in itself is eloquent testimony to the fact that a repetition of such crimes by the United States in various parts of the world is a definite possibility. This should warn countries to be more vigilant against the U.S. bestiality.

KEYHAN HAVAI Comments on Cooper Trial

PM1007170589 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 5 Jul 89 p 8

[Editorial: "What Happened to Trial and Punishment of British Spy?"]

[Text] The Islamic Republic reportedly has expelled three British citizens living in Iran in retaliation for the British expulsion of three Iranians from Britain. As a first reaction to the news of the Imam's death, the British Government last week expelled two Iranian students and

an Iranian businessman. A Foreign Office announcement gave these three 10 days to leave the country. The British Government gave no reason for these expulsions, explaining only that Douglas Hurd, the Home Office minister, had documents which proved the three expelled Iranians had engaged in activities considered detrimental to British national security.

A host's expulsion of citizens of another country is an unfriendly political gesture toward the country whose citizens are expelled. This is the second unfriendly political gesture taken by London against Iran in 5 months. Of course, Tehran also expelled three British citizens, which is considered a proper answer to London's move.

Following the break in relations between Iran and Britain at the beginning of the year, Britain has continued its hostile actions and propaganda against Iran. By continuing its support for Salman Rushdie—which caused the break in diplomatic relations to begin with—it continues to stress its anti-Islamic position. Keeping this in mind, Iran has no reason to show patience toward Britain.

The Iranian people have waited a long time for the trial of the British spy Roger Cooper, to see what punishment the court will give him. Amid a cloud of political confrontations, London's policy is one of arrogance, and this occurs at a time when one must not forget the trial of a spy, a matter dealing with a country's independence.

Cooper openly admitted in a series of interviews that he had spied for Iran's enemies. Failure on the part of our judicial authorities has allowed London to forget that its actions against our people have been revealed; it has started to act more like American cowboys. With the trial and punishment of this British spy, London must be made to understand what price it must pay if it wants to collect intelligence for the United States.

Envoy, Shevardnadze Praise Mutual Ties 24 Jul

LD2507055289 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Naser Heirani-Nobari met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow Monday [24 July] and discussed bilateral ties and practical ways of settling regional disputes. Both sides lauded the upward trend in Tehran-Moscow ties.

Shevardnadze said the trip to Moscow of Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last month had produced positive effects. He also added that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev placed special importance on the outcome of the visit and is of the opinion that the trip had brought about basic changes in bilateral relations.

KEYHAN Comments on Relations With USSR

PM2906142489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jun 89 pp 19-20

[Editorial by Mohammad Reza Shokrollahi: "The West's Jealousy Over New Relations Between Iran and the USSR"]

[Excerpts] On the eve of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to the Soviet Union, the future of relations between us and our neighbor has rarely been brighter. It is intended that during this trip a final protocol be signed for long-term cooperation in economics, trade, and science and technology through the year 2000. [passage omitted]

In general since last year the two elements that caused a cooling of relations between the two countries have been removed. With an end to the 8-year-old war in the Persian Gulf, the issue of Soviet arms sales to Iraq, which was a major obstacle to improving relations, was in effect void. The withdrawal of 100,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the Kremlin's more logical approach to the Muslim and mujahidin rights in Afghanistan opened the way to better relations between Tehran and Moscow. Finally, the third element was the internal situation in the Soviet Union and in particular the harsh treatment by that country's Communist Party officials of the Muslim population there. This has also improved under Gorbachev's political and economic reform programs. [passage omitted]

There are now many reasons for relations with our northern neighbor to become stronger. On the economic level, there is a common border of several thousand kilometers on both land and water, and this makes trade links easier. This is considered a turning point in relations. More important than that, and on a political level, there are 50 million Muslims in six Soviet republics—which is a huge responsibility when one considers the Islamic revolution's mission to support Muslims in other countries, especially countries where Muslims are controlled by other Muslims.

In addition to this, there is the Soviet's Union's existing power in world political balances and that country's permanent membership of the Security Council. These are elements worth considering, provided Iran's independence is not damaged, in order to confront U.S. imperialism and its puppets, including Iraq, and in order to make progress in the implementation of Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

What is worth mentioning, however, is the position taken by the Western countries—especially the United States—with regard to improved ties between Iran and the Soviet Union.

It is obvious that our country's strategic importance is so high for the West, especially the United States, that it has always formed an integral part of U.S. foreign policy. In

reality, all the plots—including the war, coups, military presence in the Persian Gulf, and the latest one, namely, the sending of spies—result from that principle. The Americans have always been scared of good relations between Iran and the Soviets. They feel that a major rival, which also happens to be close to Iran, puts their interests in danger. This is why under such circumstances—improving relations between Iran and the USSR—they usually try to befriend Iran, thereby preventing better ties between Iran and Moscow.

For example, George Bush said recently that if Iran helped in the freeing of hostages in Lebanon, the United States would be ready to restore its ties with Iran. Of course, it becomes obvious that the hostage question is only an excuse for Bush to say what he really wants to say, that is, the desire to restore ties between Iran and the United States.

On the other hand, despite the break in relations between all EEC countries and Iran over the Salman Rushdie affair, London is now giving the go-ahead to restoring ties. On the one hand, the British trade and industry minister says that British companies can trade with Iran, while on the other, the British ambassador to Washington says his country wants to reach a complete and better understanding with Iran. [passage omitted]

What is interesting to note is that since the heartbreaking death of Imam Khomeyni, what the Western countries, especially the United States, are saying is that Iran must now come out of its isolation and become more realistic, There are plenty of editorials of that sort in the international media these days. They say that Iran, after the death of its great leader, will open its doors to the West. This is why they think this is the best time to take advantage of the situation, to open the road to opportunities in the recontruction business and, finally, to get rid of the other rival: the Soviets.

Keeping this mind, there is more chance that there will be more green lights, including cooperation on the international scene, and bringing in friendly nations as intermediaries.

Previous experience in the Islamic revolution shows that all the predictions of the colonialistic countries with regard to the revolution have proven only their stupidity. Our ever-present people rejected those countries' statements and predictions, with their incredible presence at the mourning ceremonies for the imam. Our officials have once again shown with their messages that they are very steadfast in what the West calls their "fundamentalist" beliefs.

Impact of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's USSR Visit

NC0507125386 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Jun 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "The Outlook on 'Freedom of Religion' in the Soviet Union"]

[Excerpts] The visit of a high-level Iranian delegation headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the USSR has opened a new chapter in relations between the two countries, which should be assessed for various reasons. [passage omitted]

The warm, emotional welcome given by the residents of Baku to the Iranian delegation, along the route of their motorcade, at the Friday congregation in the city, and during Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's address to the Baku residents, demonstrates the intense affection that the people of the Muslim-inhabited areas of the Soviet Union have for Iran. This is in fact a reaffirmation by these Muslims for Islam's "center of gravity" and proves that Iran has a special place in the hearts of all Muslims. This has also been endorsed repeatedly in all the countries of the world and has been seen in India, the People's Republic of China, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, Lebanon, and other countries which reflect the vast and immense affection for the Islamic Repubic of Iran and its prominent figures. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the Soviet Muslims did not have opportunities to display such pure affection and such undiluted sentiments. They experienced a 70-year period of various pressures and repression. They have only recently acquired the opportunity to overtly display such pure religious sentimentality to this extent, as a result of the present Soviet leadership's policy of reform. Mr Gorbachev promised a more conducive atmosphere of religious freedom in the Soviet Union and it appears that the Kremlin leadership intends to stand firm in fulfilling its promise. It seems to be contemplating effective steps in this regard, the first indication of which can be the approval of the "law for the freedom of religion" in the Soviet republics.

Mr Gorbachev announced the above after receiving an important message from the imam of the nation, and it appears that he is now trying to pave the way for the fulfillment of this promise. Naturally, we should appreciate such a policy, even if it proceeds very slowly. The untainted effervescence of the relgious emotion of the Baku Muslims proves that the Soviet Muslims have been thinking about religious freedom for a long time, and they hope the time will come when they can show their religious feelings in a better and less inhibited manner and be able to practise their religious rituals freely.

It is a source of pride for Soviet Muslims that they have put behind them a 70-year long era of immnse repression. Despite these tribulations, they have not wavered in their Islamic beliefs. It is a source of great honor for Soviet Muslims that they have passed their Islamic beliefs to their offspring, generation by generation, during a 70-year period of an antireligious policy in the Soviet Union and yet have been able to maintain their Islamic identity. [passage omitted]

Circumstances have changed in the Soviet Union now and the Kremlin leadership has embarked on a reform of the country's system in accordance with the needs of Soviet society today. As regards the status quo of "Freedom of Religion" in this body of reforms and how

seriously it will be tackled and whether it is basically an administrative tactic or will be part of the Soviet Union's future strategy, depends entirely on the performance of the country's officials and can be better judged in perspective, in the future.

Report on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Moscow Visit

PM1807101889 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Jun 89 pp 18, 20

[Part I of report by correspondent Marvi who accompanied Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his visit to the Soviet Union]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Before Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Moscow, THE WASHINGTON POST quoted U.S. officials in one of its editorials, clearly expressing the concern of the U.S. Government and other Western governments over the rapprochement between Tehran and Moscow. At the same time this newspaper said that most Western analysts believe the rapprochement between Iran and the Soviet Union is tactical, that the basis for real and strategic long-term cooperation between Tehran and Moscow does not exist, and in any case that is not what Iranian leaders want.

My own understanding is that even Soviet officials—bearing in mind the events that occured a few days before the trip—had similar views on the Majlis speaker's trip. The Soviet leaders were also doubtful about the real purpose of the Iranian delegation's visit, which is why they made it known before the trip that it should be shortened from 5 days to 28 hours. They informed the delegation that was preparing the talks in Moscow. This act itself shows the doubt among Soviet officials about the real wishes of the Iranian leadership concerning the expansion of bilateral ties.

Before leaving Tehran, this question was a difficult one for me, and all my efforts during the trip went toward finding an answer to it. I feel that by studying the reasons which I will give later, you will undoubtedly find an answer to this question. Before that, I wish to give a brief account of the trip itself. [passage omitted]

ETTELA'AT Views Defense Ties With USSR

PM1807102089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jun 89 p 24

[Part II of report by correspondent Marvi who accompanied Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his trip to the Soviet Union]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] During the Iran-Iraq war Moscow openly supported Baghdad both politically and militarily. This method, which clashed with Iran's military and political objectives, was an objective in the way of improved relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union. The acceptance of Resolution 598 opened the way for the normalization of these relations.

At present, Moscow is demanding prompt implementation of Resolution 598 and the UN secretary general's four-point plan and wants to see the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq turn into a just and lasting peace. Before Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip Mr Gerasimov announced in an unprecedented move that Iraqi troops should vacate occupied territory and return to the borders defined in the 1975 Algiers accord. Although after some time a Soviet Foreign Ministry official announced that Mr Gerasimov was expressing his personal view, nonetheless this view matched that of the Iranian Foreign Ministry exactly. These comments were confirmed by the Soviet Union with their agreement to effectively increase Iran's defense capability following the Iranian delegation's visit. The delegation included Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as deputy commander of the Armed Forces; Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr Hasan Rohani, a noted and experienced member of the Majlis Defense Committee; and a group of military officers responsible for the purchase of arms.

The commander in chief of the Soviet Armed Forces announced during the trip that Moscow was prepared to meet Iran's military needs. Saddam's heavy criticism of this policy and the open expressions of displeasure from U.S. officials indicated the talk's success.

Iran's expansion of its defense capabilities could create a political and military balance in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. This will help keep the peace between Iran and Iraq. Moscow understands this point, and in view of Iraq's major military purchases from European countries in the past few months, wants to help create an overall balance in the region, ultimately helping the peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

On Thursday afternoon last week I had the chance to talk to Mr Velayati after lunch at the Leningrad town hall. I asked him about the effects of this trip on the deadlocked talks between Iran and Iraq. He said: Following my recent meeting with Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva, the Iraqis informed us through the United Nations that they would not be willing to continue the talks at the foreign ministers' level until after the presidential elections in Iran. But before we came to Moscow, they let us know that Iraq was prepared to start the negotiations within the next 2 or 3 weeks.

I told the Iranian foreign minister that I thought Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's tone of voice during a press conference that morning in Moscow was strong and firm when he talked about Resolution 598. The foreign minister replied: His tone comes from a position of strength.

It is obvious that any definite and effective strengthening of Iran's defense capabilities can have a rapid effect on progress in the peace talks with Iraq. I feel that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip as deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the arms agreements that were reached—exceeding all expectations—show real

long-term cooperation between the two sides for a stable cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, the transformation of the Persian Gulf region into an area of peace and stability, and a balance of political and military power in this area, as well as cooperation between the two sides for the withdrawal of foreign navies from the Persian Gulf.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani USSR Visit Assessed

NC0707212589 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: It had been decided that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani would visit two East European countries after his meeting with the Soviet leaders. However, this schedule changed and the speaker of the Islamic Majlis hurriedly returned to Tehran because his friends informed him that his absence had provided an opportunity for his opponents and other aspirants to get together and initiate measures to foil his power-seeking plans.

First of all, let us cast a cursory glance at the outcome of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow. During his visit, some new accords for cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union were signed and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was dazzled by the warm and enthusiastic reception accorded him by the Russians, expressed optimism, just as his hosts did, on the broadening of Soviet-Iranian ties. Obviously Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow a few days after Khomeyni's demise, and just at a time when he is in the throes of an intensive campaign to attain absolute power, was not a simple visit for the exchange of formalities and the signing of technical and economic accords. He wanted to explain his position to the Soviets and to assure them that he could provide for their interests in Iran better than anyone else. [passage omitted]

One of the issues of immense urgency and importance for the Soviet Union is the issue of Afghanistan. Three million Afghan refugees are at present in Iran. In addition, because of its common border with Afghanistan and its influence on Shi'ite Afghans, Iran can play an effective role in deciding Afghanistan's political destiny. The Soviet Union's objective is to use the Islamic Republic as a counterweight to Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue. In this manner, it would not only impede the formation of a united front among the Afghan mujahidin but would also neutralize the pressure which is exerted from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on the Kabul government. It is reported that the Ryssians extracted favorable promises from Hashemi-Rafsanjani in this regard. In addition, he gave his word that when he gains power in Iran he will terminate the religious propaganda program for the export of the revolution initiated in the time of Ayatollah Khomeyni, which has aroused strong sentiments in the Muslim areas of the Soviet Union.

On the basis of the recent accords, the export of Iranian gas to the Soviet Union will be resumed. In the future, the issue of the utilization of northern Iran's oil by the Soviet Union will also be followed up. However, the matter which the two parties have kept secret is the agreement for the purchase of Soviet arms. The sale of arms in the present world—in addition to the enormous commercial profits accruing from it—is one of the most influential methods of political infiltration. In view of this, even the U.S. warning to the Soviet (?echelons) against seeking a market for the sale of its arms in neighboring regions has not succeeded in daunting them, especially since, as a result of the accord between East and West on curbing the arms race in Europe, a considerable quantity of useless weaponry will be in Soviet hands.

In light of this, it remains to be seen how far the general policy of the Soviet Union in the region and its relations with the Arab countries will permit it to show its willingness to accede to the Islamic Republic's request for arms, what kind of arms they will supply, and on what scale. In any case, more than anything else, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's talks in Moscow indicate that the successors of Ayatollah Khomeyni have relegated the slogan of "Neither East nor West"—which had become redundant and ineffective even in the lifetime of Ayatollah Khomeyni—to the archives.

Second, in order to attain power, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has initiated an international auction and has put Iran up for sale. He has adopted the policy of doling out positions, jobs, and financial and administrative privileges, without following formalities and even without any attempt to preserve appearances, in order to placate opponents, pave his way to power, and buy their allegiance in his own interests. He is following the same policy abroad in order to attract foreign support. Once he had forged transactions with the Russians he hastened to Tehran in order to fill Ahmad Khomeyni's mouth with the sweets of a promise that he would obtain the post of speaker in the Islamic Majlis, so that he would not be a boulder in his path.

Thus, Hashemi-Rafsanjani hopes to remove all internal and foreign impediments and difficulties from his path and see his long-standing desire materialize, which is to be the absolute successor of Khomeyni. However, fate plays games and the coming days will be full of unpredictable events which Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani has not even dreamed of.

Paper Views Contacts, Ties With West, USSR

NC0407101589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Jun 89 p 2, 3

[Editorial: "Why the West Has Failed Where the Soviets Have Succeeded"]

[Text] What makes the West imagine that Iran wants always to be tied to its apron-strings? This is the only way we can interpret the U.S. umbrage over the Islamic Republic's movement closer towards the Soviet bloc

after the landmark visit by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in recent days to a country whose leadership now takes a newer and open outlook at the world in its policies.

A White House spokeswoman has expressed what it called "displeasure" with Soviet efforts to improve ties with Iran culminating in an agreement this week for economic and military cooperation. Then again the U.S. took it upon itself to warn Moscow against Soviet arms sales to Iran. But the Soviets went ahead nevertheless offering to boost Iran's military potential under a friendly cooperation agreement of a type reserved normally for its closest allies. A joint declaration called for both countries to expand cooperation in defense and other fields and not to interfere in each other's affairs.

No doubt its other allies will take up and echo the U.S. devil's trill directed against a nation which wishes to do nothing less than preserve the ideological purity of its Islamic values with no compromises and find its feet as an economically strong and vibrant nation among the community of world nations. The West was given every chance by Iran to accept Iranian invitations to cooperate and help in this effort, but they failed more than once. And yet Iran's doors remain open; but it will never tolerate any illogical and unjustified demand.

From time to time in recent months the West was invited through talks and various overtures to cooperate economically and militarily with Iran and even to enter into deals for transfer of western technology here. But they kept vacillating and hoping that Iran would have to plead and cajole more before they could agree. The reason for the West having failed while the Soviets have succeeded has very much to do with attitudes towards this country and the Islamic Revolution which has caught the imagination of Muslims throughout the world. The West wants to, and hopes to mould this country in its own fashion, but the Soviets who have always sought to preserve their own ideological integrity are better equipped to understand the Iranian psyche and their psychology. Hence they did without fear, what the West feared to do.

Let the West not chafe. Economic development is a matter of vital necessity in the second decade of the Islamic Revolution. Iran's doors are still open to any developed country which wants to help Iran without imposing its political views, or aiming to destroy the ideological fabric of the nation. Soviet technology may not be as superior as Western technology, but this disadvantage can be made up for amply through the relatively lower prices for Soviet goods and the geographical proximity of the two countries making for cheaper transport and closer cooperation. Moreover, the 300-million strong Soviet market promises well for many Iranian goods.

If the West persists in its attitude of "once a bad boy, always a bad boy," it can never hope for expanded ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran which is in every respect flexible in its attitude to every country in the world irrespective of ideologies—with the notable exceptions of course of South Africa and Israel—as Hashemi-Rafsanjani said during his MOscow visit. It will not be Iran's fault if relations continue to stay at the low level they are at present with countries who show more truculence than wisdom in relations with Iran.

KEYHAN HAVAI Views Baku's Rights

PM1907092689 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 12 Jul 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Political Factions and the Leverage of Human Rights"]

[Text] The issue of the Baha'i political faction in Iran is raised from time to time as negative propaganda by the Western media in relation to human rights. On 2 July 1989 VOA [Voice of America] announced in a report: The U.S. Senate and Congress are once again examining a resolution in support of the Baha'is in Iran. In 1982, 1984, and 1988 the U.S. Congress issued statements asking the Iranian Government to respect the rights of all its people, including the Baha'is, who are the largest religious minority in Iran.

First of all, the point that the Baha'is are the largest religious minority in Iran must be viewed from two angles. We must see whether Baha'ism is a religion or a political faction.

With regard to the Western media's calling Baha'ism a religion, we must look a long way back. It is enough to say that ever since the time Naser-eddin Shah of the Qajar dynasty, when this political faction started its splittist activity, Britain rose to its support. The members of this faction started their open activity in Iran—at the same time as Turkey, Cyprus, occupied Palestine, Europe and the United States—after a period of stagnation, during the reign of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. They began a sequence of ferocious political activity and infiltrated all government departments, even setting up their own television transmitter.

By using its people in key positions, this faction grew so strong that in their circles no one but their own people had any scope for activity. The octopus-like Baha'i political faction was guided from Haifa in Israel and from New York in the United States. By using this same inflence it gained access to great wealth for its own people. The leaders and members of this faction used their wealth and influence for political ends, to place the country at the mercy of their masters. The fact that there

are still Baha'is in Iran who are content to limit themselves to religious activity alone and who have abandoned political activity on behalf of foreigners, points to this very fact that in Iran no one is persecuted for simply having even the most ridiculous and superstitious beliefs.

VOA also said: In 1982, 1984, and 1988 the U.S. Congress approved resolutions passed by both the House and the Senate. In these resolutions the Congress announced that it holds the Iranian Government responsible for respecting the rights of all its citizens, including the Baha'is.

The latest U.S. move is a political one. The fact that it names only the Baha'is from among the religious minorities raises certain questions. The question is, why dies it not name the other religious minorities, if the rights of religious minorities are being ignored? Why is it that only the so-called Baha'i minority does not have its rights observed? There are many other "whys" which the U.S. Government must answer.

Our question is that political factions that act in order to cause tension in the country and aim to move the country in the direction of foreigners and their headquarters in Israel and New York, will have no place in Iran. Even if the U.S. Congress passes another 100 resolutions in this regard. Iran will not jeopardize its independence for the sake of political and so-called human rights considerations.

Paper Comments on Religious Freedom in USSR

LD2606082389 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial Monday commented on the horizon of religion in the Soviet Union in the light of the Soviet leader Mikhal Gorbachev's reforms.

Among agreements concluded during the recent trip to Moscow of Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is exchange of religious delegations and establishment of contacts between the two countries 'ulema and religious personalities.

The paper said after some 70 years of pressure, the Soviets had now the opportunity to express their religious sentiments, something which it said became possible under the reform programs of the Soviet leader.

The paper praised the Soviet Muslims for having protected their belief and identity throughout the time and from generation to generation despite the heavy pressure of the past 70 years and campaigns against religion.

Under the new conditions created in the Soviet Union the Soviet leadership is working to correct the system to meet the needs and the conditions of the Soviet people. As to what will be the fate of religious freedom in the country, what status it has in the general reform program of the country, and how seriously it will be taken will depend on the future strategy and tactics of the Soviet leadership, concluded the article.

Trade Between Azarbayjan-USSR Planned

LD1507164989 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Ardabil, East Azarbayjan Prov., July 15, IRNA—Pending central government approval, this northwestern border province expects an annual trade of dlrs [U.S. dollars] 15 million with the Soviet Union, said Governor-General Br. Parhizkar.

The daily 'ETTELA'AT' today quoted Parhizkar as telling reporters that all preliminary arrangements have been made and the list of exports prepared.

The province is also ready to host two thousand Soviet Azarbaijani pilgrims every year, on their way to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) [God's peace be upon him] in Mashhad and the shrine of Imam Khomeyni in Tehran, he added.

Leaders Sign Condolences for Hungary's Kadar

LD1607172889 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Two senior Iranian officials visited the Hungarian Embassy here today to sign the book of condolences opened for the late member of the Presidential Council Janos Kadar who expired on July 6.

Deputy Premier 'Alireza Mo'ayeri and Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati offered their condolences to Hungarian officials.

"Janos Kadar wanted Hungary to be the same homeland of men with different views. He strove after economic and social renewal and reforms..." an embassy statement said of the one time premier.

"At the time of his demise, his merits are not to be forgotten. His political heritage is to be continued whatever proved to be worthwhile, but not what was exceeded by time," said the statement.

The condolence book will remain open tomorrow for those wishing to express their condolences.

Velayati, Bulgarian Official on Muslim Concerns

LD1607143289 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today called on Bulgaria to "make utmost efforts not to let the rights of Muslims in that country be trampled upon."

Velayati told visiting Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Lubomir Popov here that the Islamic Republic of Iran was concerned over the fate of all Muslims.

The foreign minister stressed that Tehran attached importance to its ties with Sofia and that "there are no impediments in the way of expanding mutual ties."

Popov submitted Velayati a message from President Todor Zhivkov for Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also briefed him on the status of Muslims in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian official was among foreign dignitaries who participated in a ceremony held here Thursday to mark the end of a 40 day mourning for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

TEHRAN TIMES on Moscow's Role in Peace Talks

NC0707160689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Moscow Can Help Peace"]

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will take off for Geneva on July 3 to attend a disarmament General Assembly. He will also reportedly hold talks with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who is presently in Geneva to inaugurate the summer assembly of the world body's economic and social council. The two will review developments related to Iran-Iraq peace-talks under the U.N. sponsorship.

For a fact the ceasefire in the war has been the only achievement made so far in the tedious rounds of talks that have been hampered for this reason or another since last year. Regrettably no positive sign is at present at hand that any progress has made in the talks, except the truce, since August 20, 1988.

But what are the main factors responsible for the frustration of talks between the two countries? And why there has not been a serious attempt to realize a lasting peace once and for all?

To understand the reason for the failure of the talks we have to, in the interests of peace, take a realistic angle. The on-going war of words between the two countries is certainly among the factors responsible for the blockade of the negotiations. How on earth is it ever possible for the two capitals to come to terms and make a thorough peace while both are involved in a high-pitched verbal battle and propaganda war?

It is out of such an understanding that it may be suggested that two countries should, as a step to aid peace efforts, diminish this verbal battle and negative propaganda campaign by their mass media against one another.

Such halt in the propaganda war will definitely be conducive to establishing the kind of psychological atmosphere needed for the frustrated peace negotiations. If the two capitals agree to move along such line, it is hoped the move will greatly contribute to the peace atmosphere in which talks should be held. If so, it will indeed be some sort of detente between the two countries.

But naturally if the present politico-military measures enhance tension and cause further distrustfulness, this will only aggravate the situation.

Meanwhile, given the new boost in the Moscow-Tehran relations, the Islamic Republic naturally expects the USSR, which is a strategic ally of Baghdad, to use its pull along the line of peace efforts. Moscow can greatly help peace talks by pressuring Baghdad to end its adventurous activities especially along the border line. Such moves by Iraq will only ehighten Iran's distrust of the rulers in Baghdad.

Khamene'i Names 24 Jul Gendarmerie Day

LD2407132789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, agreed to name 24 July as Gendarmerie Day.

According to a Central News Unit report, Hojjat-ol Eslam 'Ali Akbar Ashtiani, the jurisconsult vice regency's representative in the Gendarmerie, and Brigadier General Sohrabi, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie, sent a letter to the office of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They remarked on the sacrifices and epic-making deeds of the skilled Gendarmerie officers in their defense of the Islamic homeland, the achievements of the Islamic revolution, as well as the active participation of the intrepid Gendarmerie officials in the course of the 8 years of holy defense, specifically their epic-making acts on 24 July 1988, in the Ilam region and requested the leader to graciously give his consent to naming 24 July as Gendarmerie Day in trubute to the courageous and epic-making deeds of the Gendarmerie.

According to this report, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in reply pronounced his consent as follows:

In the name of God, the almighty; I agree to name 24 July as Gendarmerie Day. May God increase the success of the hard-working personnel of Gendarmerie.

Press Continues To Criticize Saudi Arabian Regime

LD0407110489 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Saudi efforts to bar Muslims to freely perform hajj rituals is aimed at, among other things, halting the "antipathy towards pagans" rallies, an Iranian daily said Tuesday.

Referring to the Saudi decision to restrict the number of pilgrims to Mecca, JOMHURI ISLAMI said "The Saudis and their masters inflicted a heavy blow on themselves by raising the quota issue and asking the Organisation of Islamic Countries to approve it."

"They, in fact, confessed that Saudi Arabia is not the only country legitimized to deal with hajj affairs."

The Islamic ulema and men of thought analysing the issue of hajj administration, have come to the point that the Saudis are not competent to administer the two holiest Islamic sancturies, Mecca and Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh [praise be upon him]) shrine, it asserted.

The quota issue meant only to reduce the number of Iranian pilgrims because the released data show that the Saudi regime could not reduce the overall number of pilgrims and that the same number of pilgrims from other Muslim countries have come to Mecca in 1987 and 1988, the paper added.

"The Islamic world is faced with arrogant plots such as the massacre of Muslims in the divinly-sacred place, the quota system, and the publication of 'The Satanic Verses' the purpose of which is to stop the worldwide call for Islam."

The morning daily voiced the conviction that "the Islamic world has taken great lessons from the Mecca incident and its repercussions. It has realised that the slightest hesitation would tempt the enemies to hatch new ploys." The contemporary world, it continued, witnessed the integrated and wrathful reaction of Muslim nations in protest to the Rushdie affair and the publication of 'The Satanic Verses' which blasphemes Islam. The protests were so extensive that even the reactionary Arab regimes had to, despite their will, confirm that Salman Rushdie was an infidel.

The paper's editorial underlined that the world arrogance suffered a humiliating defeat in this case and the entire globe witnessed that the world Muslims did not withdraw from their accurate and principled stands.

The enemies of Islam should know that in the hajj issue, they are the ones who have to set back and give in to the Muslims' justified words in connection with performance of hajj rituals and declaring antipathy towards unbelievers in its real sense, the paper concluded.

The other Persian daily also lashed out today at the Saudi regime as an "agent of the arrogance." It said the British colonialists had rightly apprehended that the Saudis were the most proper dynasty to rule over the oil-rich peninsula as they were obedient to act alon with the British interests.

"The Saudis and their masters are incapable of understanding realitites. The massacre (of hajj pilgrims) not only did not frighten Muslims but only unveiled the real nature of the Wahhabi Saudis. They confronted Muslims all over the world and undoubtedly can not escape the predicament they created themselves."

"The Saudis should know that the blue-eyed Lawrence of Arabia has died and that American cowboys have proved not to be resistant against the wrath of Muslims.

"The barring of Iranian pilgrims from hajj rituals for the second consecutive year proved to the Islamic world that Saudi Wahhabis are not eligible to administer the two sanctuaries and that the Muslims should think of selecting an administration faithful to Islamic sanctities."

Exclusion of Pilgrims Crititcized

LD0707162689 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—The head of the Hajj [pilgrimage] orginization has said Iran would not be concerned if its citizens were refused to perform the Hajj for anoter decade.

Jojjan ol-Eslam Mahdi Emam Jamarani said today the Hajj ritual for Iranians, who have been refused entry in Saudi Arabia for performing the Hajj for the last two years, was to "cry against small and large satans."

Meanwhile in Qom, a member of the Council of Guardians also attacked Riyadh, saying every effort must be made to expose the "un-Islamic nature" of the Saudi royal family.

"We aren't afraid if they don't let us into Mecca to make pilgrimage to the House of God for another ten years," Jamarani told the Friday prayer ceremony in Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

The Hajj organization chief arrived here to participate in special ceremonies attended by Sunni and Shi'a Muslims marking "disavowals of infidels week" at the start of the Hajj period.

Recalling the burning of the U.S. flag during the 1987 Hajj demonstration in Mecca when 324 Iranians and about 100 other Hajjis were martyred, Jamarani said such acts in the eyes of the Saudi monarchy was as if the flag of the House of God was set on fire.

"Today America is simply ruling over Saudi Arabia and stealing the property of Muslims. Today Mecca is safe for infidels but not for Muslims," he said.

In Qom, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a member of the Council of Guardians and head of the Islamic Propagation Organization said in a Friday prayer sermon the memory of 1987 Mecca massacre must always be kept alive.

"In all their history the rulers of the Hejaz (Saudi Arabia) have made use of every opportunity to wipe out Islamic values," he said.

"It is the duty of the 'ulema and thinkers of Islamic lands to make every effort to expose the un-Islamic nature of the regime ruling the Hejaz."

Jannati said the world must be told how Muslim pilgrims were attacked by a regime which claims to be the guardian of Islam's holiest shrines.

During Tehran's Friday prayers, Chief Justice Abdul-Karim Musavi-Ardabili prayed to God that "the corpse of the Mecca taghut" would be removed from Saudi Arabia.

Hajj, 'Anti-Islamic Actions' Viewed

NC0907074089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] This year, for the second time, Iranian pilgrims have been deprived of participation in the Hajj rituals. [passage omitted]

The sanguinary Friday incident in Mecca which occurred at the hands of the al-Sa'ud regime's agents clearly accentuated, for the first time, the fundamental and deep-rooted conflict between the pure Mohammadan Islam and the American brand of Islam. Out of sheer servitude to the United States and Israel, the al-Sa'uds endeavored to snuff out the cries of the Muslims' disavowal of world oppression and Zionism. The al-sa'uds were oblivious to the fact that the global movement of Islam and the awakening of Muslims in the world, which increases each day, is stronger than what the al-Sa'uds and their supporters could thwart. [passage omitted]

All the anti-Islamic actions of the enemies of Islam in the past two years indicate that following the Mecca catastrophe, these enemies became audacious enough to tread the patch of desecrating Islamic sanctities. "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie, the publication of his book, the dissemination of other books in an attempt to blaspheme Islam and Islamic sanctities, and the production of films and serials which violate Muslim sensibilities can be mentioned in this context.

However, the historical decree by Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, prompted Muslim solidarity in condemning and combating this plot, crushed this conspiracy, and served to further coalesce the Muslims confronting world oppressors and their cultural conspiracies. Now the world Muslims have two obligations: One is to foil the world oppressors' plots with greater unity. [passage omitted] The second obligation for all Muslims is nothing more than to follow the exhortations of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the world Muslims, to preserve unanimity of the word and complete solidarity in the face of plots and cultural and propagandistic treachery by world oppression. Undoubtedly the preservation of unanimity of the word, which is the secret of the victory of the islamic revolution and its perpetuation as well, will play a fundamental role in the eventual triumph of the Muslims and the attainment of the lofty objectives of Islam.

Velayati Receives Hizballah, Amal Leaders

LD2407191589 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday reiterated that plots of global arrogance and its regional agents would not be able to prevent Lebanese Muslims from accomplishing their legitimate rights. He also said world Muslims were a great backing for the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims.

Speaking in a meeting with Amal and Hizballah leaders before their departure from Tehran, Velayati also reiterated Iran's firm support for the combatant Lebanese Muslim forces in their fight against arrogant and Zionist ambitions.

"We believe that the unity and solidarity of the Muslim and combatant forces will result in the victory and dignity of the ummah and will pave the way for restoration of the rights of the tyrannized people of Lebanon," said the foreign minister.

Various Palestinian and Lebanese groups visited Iran this month where they held talks on ways to coordinate their strategy against their joint Zionist enemy.

They included head of the Amal Movement Nabih Birri and Hizballah leader Sheikh Subhi al-Tufayli.

The latest developments in Lebanon and the result of the Tehran talks of the Lebanese-Palestinian groups as well as their meetings with Iranian officials were also discussed in Monday evening's meeting with Velayati.

During the meeting, the Amal and Hizballah leaders also stressed their alliance in their struggle against the Qods occupying regime and its internal agents in war-torn Lebanon. They also vowed that they will fight on until the fulfillment of the trampled rights of the Lebanese Muslims, the achievement of unity in Lebanon and the

collapse of the dependent regime of Michel 'Awn. They said they will no more let global arrogance and Zionism bring their agents to power in Lebanon.

Earlier Monday, the two groups issued a joint statement in Tehran to the same effect.

TEHRAN TIMES Comments on Afghan Coalition

NC0707171889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Independent Afghan Mujahidin Form new Coalition"]

[Text] Iran-based eight-party alliance together with four other independent Afghan Mujahidin groups announced Saturday a new coalition that has taken on the name Shura-ye-Jihad or Holy War Council. The other groups include Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, led by Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, Islamic Solidarity (headed by Qazi Mohammad Amin Vafadar), Islamic Revolution Movement (led by Musavi Rafiallah Mo'azzen) and the Islamic Unity Council (represented in Tehran by Nadali Mahdavi).

The coalition, achieved after lengthy talks in recent months, in effect speaks for a new polarization and position-taking within the ranks of the Afghan Mujahidin.

The development has unravelled at a time when the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance has indeed put on a straitjacket of relative isolation on itself mainly due to its monopolistic policy.

The alliance has also resoundingly failed in winning recognition for its interim government. Its failure in its military march on Jalalabad too is among factors conducive to its isolation.

However the newly formed coalition now speaks of the fact that Tehran may eventually turn to become the key axis in finding solution to the Afghan crisis.

Indeed Iran's logical stance on the Afghan-related issues in the past few months has convinced many political observes to review their stand-points over the issue.

Iran's quite friendly relations with the two countries which are seriously involved in the Afghan problem, i.e. the USSR and Pakistan, also draw brighter horizons for Iran's greater involvement in the settlement of Afghanistan problem. Probably the newly established council by independent Afgahn Mujahidin groups should be looked upon from this angle as well.

It should also be noted that the four groups that have coalesced with the Shi'ite eight-party alliance are all from Sunni brothers.

The very establishment of this coalition is therefore proof in itself that the accusation that Iran only supports the Shi'ite groups is all but meaningless.

In a statement that was released in Tehran on Saturday, the new coalition has aired a rather significant point of view. It has stressed that it does not rule out non-military solutions to the Afghan issue. The communique has in clear terms put forward that it will consider peaceful ways that respect the principles of independence and freedom of Afghanistan.

The announcement is indeed an important step in finding a just solution and avoiding fratricide and civil war.

Such a stance should be indeed viewed with a lot of significance by the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance as well as the military wing in the Pakistani leadership.

TEHRAN TIMES on Kurdish Leader's Murder

NC2107120389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 89 p 2

[Text] What is very clear from the shooting of Kurdish [KDP] leader 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu of the dissolved Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and two of his deputies in a Vienna apartment recently, is that it had much to do with the overtures his party was making towards Iran.

No official announcement has been made by the police yet as to the motives for the murder, or the identification of the murderers. Nevertheless, it can be almost surely surmised that the differences that have recently surfaced between the Qasemlu faction of the KDP and the Iraqi regime with which it closely worked are relevant to what has taken place. The Qasemlu party no doubt was turned off by the forced expulsions of Kurdish people and the destruction of Kurdish towns of Iraq by the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad.

Qasemlu no doubt aimed to counter these moves by making overtures to Iran. And it is known that Qasemlu had offered to hold talks in this regard with Tehran. The meeting with an Iranian official in Vienna was in all probability a preliminary to the probable holding of such talks in Tehran although there has been no official confirmation in Tehran that such negotiations were planned.

Yet all in all considering the deep divisions among the Kurdish party and the serious differences Qasemlu was beginning to have with the Iraqi regime, the finger of guilt in the murders ponts strongly to Iraqi security agents. But this is not to discount the possibility that Kurdish agents opposed to Qasemlu may have carried out the murders, agents cooperating with Baghdad, given the fact that the police have said that the assassins very well knew the identity of their victims.

The fourth victim in this incident, Mahmoud Ja'fari Sohrvardi was later identified by the Iranian Embassy in Austria as a diplomat. The official has been seriously wounded in the shooting but has escaped with his life. But the fact is that there can be no denying of the Qasemlu-Iran contacts and the suggestion that the KDP faction was moving to resolve its differences with Iran.

Apart from the political issues involved, the time and location of the terroristic act, the methods used and the political motivations all show similarities with previous terroristic acts carried out by Iraqi security agents over the past years. Iraq is no doubt rather jittery about the outcome of the investigations, since they no doubt must have had a hand in the episode. Iraq most certainly expected to benefit from the assassination, by making it an example for other KDP leaders or factions who may want to move closer to Tehran, in preference to Baghdad.

Whatever the outcome of the final investigations, this kind of ruthlessness can have little effect on the Kurdish determination in opposing the anti-Kurdish moves of the Iraqi regime.

Commentary Argues Cyprus Part of Turkey
NC0407113289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jun 89 p 7

[MUSLIMEDIA commentary: "Cyprus: An Integral Part of Dar-al-Islam"]

[Text] At no time in history has Cyprus ever formed part of Greece, although in ancient times, like so much of the Mediterranean, including Sicily, it formed part of Magna Graeca (a linguistic and cultural, not a political, concept). This explains how a Greek-speaking island can be 500 miles away from Greece and only 40 away from Turkey.

Geographically and historically, Cyprus is part of Turkey. More accurately, it forms part of Dar al-Islam. Ordering its occupation, Mu'awiyah described it as 'a dagger pointed at the heart of Syria.' The same thinking lay behind the formal note of protest Syria sent Whitehall in October 1956, protesting at Britain's stationing French troops within a few miles of Syrian territory. (This was in preparation for the ill-fated Suez adventure.) After a time, Cyprus reverted to Christian control and formed part of the Venetian Empire.

In the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire occupied it to protect its lines of naval communication, which were being thretened by piracy. Operating from Cypriot ports, pirates attacked Ottoman sea-lanes with Venetian connivance. The occupation of the island in 1571 by the forces of Sultan Selim II resulted in numerous deeds of heroism. The first Muslim to scale the walls of Nicosia, the standard-bearer Bairaktar, perished a Shahid (Martyr) and was buried in a mosque in Nicosia, blown up one night by the Greeks in 1963.

Such acts would hardly lead one to believe that the Greeks on Cyprus owe everything to the Turks, but such is in fact their case. It was they who had invited in the Ottomans in the first place, and Greeks used to send envoys to the Sultan asking him to intervene. When the Ottomans took over, the Greeks were serfs who did not even own the land they cultivated; all the land belonged to oppressive Venetian and Frankish landlords, who treated the natives like dirt.

The Muslims liberated them and gave them back their lands. The Venetians, who were Catholic, hated and despised the Greeks because they belonged to the Orthodox Church. The Turks restored the Greek Orthodox Church and elevated the archbishop to the status of an 'Ethnarchos'. They also appointed him the head of the Greek community, which constituted a Millah (Turk. 'Millet') in its own right. This led straight to the Makarios situation, whereby the archbishop assumed the role of spokesman for the Greek majority. Properly speaking, even the term 'majority' for the Greek majority is a misnomer. Under British rule, which was a continuation of Turkish rule, Greeks and Turks did not form majority and minority but communities (translation of Jama'ah) with equal rights and privileges. During the Ottoman period the Greek population substantially increased as settled conditions and a good administration brought prosperity to the island.

Britain wanted Cyprus to protect its flank on the Suez Canal, the lifeline of its empire. Turkey needed British help against the Russians, who had declared war in 1877. In 1878, the Turks ceded administration over the island to Britain although Turkey always retained its rights of sovereignty. The right of reversion was written into the treaty. Britain annexed Cyprus in the same way as it annexed Egypt (another Ottoman territory), when Turkey sided with Germany in the First World War. The iniquitous Treaty of Lausanne after the war ceded the island to Britain, but with the understanding that should Britain decide to give it up, the island would revert to Turkey. This remained the legal situation till 1959.

But gradualism is a process hard to resist, specially when a country is weak. Crete, originally Muslim, an island littered with mosques, madrassahs and Muslim cemeteries, was first accorded 'self-government' and then became part of metropolitan Greece. Similarly with Rhodes. At one time Rhodes was Muslim. When Italy was forced to cede Rhodes in the 1947 peace treaty, all the Dodecanese islands were handed over to Greece, and the cowardly Turkish government of Ismet Inonu never even protested, though under great public pressure to take action. Cyprus could easily have gone the same way.

The cowardice persists and explains the humiliating climb-down at Zurich in 1959, which led straight to the crisis of 1974. Instead of agreeing to selfgovernment, Turkey could have insisted, as she was legally entitled to do, on retrocession. Even today Turkish authorities never allude to the matter and prefer to talk of partition

and 'the federated states of Cyprus.' Turkey's retreat from the original position of retrocession was motivated by fear of some deal being struck between Whitehall and Makarios. This was in spite of Turkey's membership of NATO (of which it formed the sheet anchor), CENTO [Central Treaty Organization], and the numerous bilateral economic and political treaties linking Turkey to the US and Western Europe.

At the conference in Zurich, Turkey argued for partition, thereby tacitly conceding on reversion. Makarios, panicked by the partition proposal, settled for an independent state under UN supervision. Britain, Greece and Turkey all agreed to recognize a Republic of Cyprus. Britain lost nothing because it retained sovereign control of the bases (the Akrotiri sovereign base area and the Dhekelia sovereign base area). The treaty specifically precluded 'either union of Cyprus with any other state or partition of the island.' This was bilateral, for it applied not only to the three sovereign parties to the treaty but to the emergent republic which, for its part, was not allowed to seek such union either. Turkey, Greece and the Republic of Cyprus then bound themselves to resist any aggression against the new state.

The bloodshed of 1964, when in February Turkey threatened to land forces to protect Turkish lives goes back ultimately to the unworkable constitutional arrangements of 1959, but the immediate cause was Makarios's Thirteen Points of November, 1963. These were constitutional amendments which required the consent both of the Cyprus parliament and the three guarantors of the 1959 accords. Had they been adopted, the right of the Turkish community to protect itself against Greek aggression would have vanished. The points included abolition of the (Turkish) vice-president's right of veto together with that of the (Greek) president. On paper, this looked fair but what it would have meant in practice was the exercise of authority by the Greek majority in parliament. Other provisions were no less devious in intent: a unified command and Armed Forces; unified courts; unified municipalities; and civil service recruitment to be in the proportion of 70/30 in favor of the Greek majority.

Makarios was not only sly, he was arrogant, so overconfident in fact that on January 1, 1964, he proclaimed the unilateral abrogation of the Zurich accords concomitantly along with the constitution. Such a step may seem rash for a clever politician like Makarios, but Makarios was party to a top secret plan agreed upon earlier, the Akritas Plan, aiming at the elimination of the Turkish Cypriots. This plan was initiated with the massacres of December 21. The plan had been make feasible by a revival of Makarios's partnership with Colonel Grivas. The existence of this prescription for genocide was only revealed on April 21, 1966, when it was published by the Greek newspaper PATRIS. The plan was drawn up in consultation with Greek Army officers serving illegally with the Cypriot forces.

Makarios was relying on Greek military intervention and US support in the form of moral pressure on London and Ankara. The UN sent in a peacekeeping force to forestall a Turkish invasion. Grivas, now appointed a general by Greece, came to Cyprus to take over command of the Greek sections of the Army. At Makarios's orders, the Army proceeded to blockade the Turkish sectors; although food ran short, the Turkish will to resist did not break.

Turkey took the step of informing its NATO allies that it proposed to land forces in support of the local Turkish troops. This would have meant between [as published] Turkey and Greece, and, to prevent it, on June 5, US President Lyndon Johnson proposed that Cyprus be annexed to Greece, except for the Karpas Peninsula, which would become a Turkish base. The remaining Turks would be free to leave the island and would qualify for compensation. By joining NATO in 1947, Turkey had given the US the right to interfere in matters affecting its own destiny.

Meanwhile, the massacre of Turks in the villages continued. In June, 1967, Ankara presented Greece, now ruled by a military junta, with an ultimatum. Fearing a defeat in Thrace, the colonels backed down and the Greek regulars were recalled. The Turks on Cyprus established de facto partition. Up till this point, Cyprus had been administered under the Milla system; now the division was not communal but geographic. From the Turks' point of view, the solution was not an economically desirable one: thousands of Turks were expelled from good land and forced to take refuge either in the Turkish quarter of Nicosia or the north. Until the civil war, out of 619 villages, 393 were Greek, 120 Turkish and 106 mixed; in the towns there were Greek and Turkish living quarters although the two communities usually worked together. The refugees the new situation gave rise to were very poor; they had had to leave their farms; taxes collected in the Turkish sector were not even sufficient to cover the cost of administration.

The coup of 1974 failed because Makarios was at loggerheads with the junta in Athens over methodology; the junta wanted a quick, military solution; the archbishop favored combining economic pressures with other means to effect the elimination of the Turks. The colonels in Athens, like their equivalents in Muslim countries, lacked finesse; they staged a coup to overthrow Makarios and replace him with a character straight out of gangster films, Nikos Sampson. The Greek National Guard, formed in breach of the Cyprus constitution, thereupon staged a coup on July 15, 1974.

The guards proceeded to massacre the Muslims wherever they found them insufficiently protected. The entire Muslim population of Murataga, Tashkent (Dohni), Andailar and Athlar [names as published] were wiped out—machine-gunned and their bodies thrown into ditches. Exercising its right of intervention under the Zurich Accords, Turkey then invaded, and the island

was formaly partitioned on August 1975. For a time Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit seemed likely to fall heir to Inonu's cowardice, but, finally, pressure from Erbakan and the Islamic elements in the cabinet induced him to act; a less belated action would have resulted in thousands of people being alive who are now dead; a more belated one would have resulted in none to save.

Prospects for Cooperation With ROK Viewed

NC0707111089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "South Korea May Oust Japan in Iran's Reconstruction Drive"]

[Text] This week's high-level delegation visit headed by Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh to Seoul may be viewed as nothing less than highly significant. The fact that Head of the Majlis Oil Commission, Seyyed Jalil Seyyedzadeh is also included in the delegation which left Seoul Sunday night adds point to the visit which comes at the invitation of the South Korean energy minister.

South Korea has indeed proved to be an unbeatable example of an economic success story in the developing world. It has put through several five-year plans aimed mainly at transforming the Korean economy into an export-oriented one, with foreign trade as a key to the promotion of economic progress and development.

For over two decades now South Korea has demonstrated its ability to forge an economy in which efficiency and the promotion of right attitudes to labor has yielded the most fruitful results. In fact the key to South Korea's progress, especially during the fifth-year [as published] economic development plan (1982-86) has been its bid to increase exports while importing essential raw materials including oil, as well as essential capital assets.

The total value of South Korea's exports in 1962 was $54.8 million, but with the initiative of an export-oriented policy in 1984 this figure has reached the enormous figure of $29,244.9 million.

It is no wonder that many economic theoreticians are of the opinion that the South Korean model is worthy of emulation and that it can indeed be a model for the future economic development plans in Iran.

South Korea which is known for its 'second economic miracle' has besides very high technological and potential at expertise levels. Hence it can most helpfully be tapped and Iran's bid to draw closer in establishing strategic and long-term economic and diplomatic relations is indeed a correct step. As South Korea is politically neutral, as far as relations with this country go, and since it can be advantageous from the point of view of the transfer of technology and know-how, the opportunity should be exploited to the fullest.

One may even find good reason for suggesting that South Korea would be best to replace Japan as a partner in the reconstruction projects now under way in Iran and particularly of the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex (IJPC), a $3.6 billion joint venture in Bandar Imam Khomeyni on Iran's southern coast—the project which has been dormant for several years now.

An expansion of economic ties with South Korea can well help to take not only this project off [the] ground, but lead to developments in several other fields as well, including industrial and ship-building projects.

It should not surprise any then that the visit of the high-powered Iranian delegation to South Korea may be the beginning of greatly expanded ties and the admission of South Korea as a major business partner of Iran's, perhaps even in preference to Japan which has maintained such a relationship before. A decision at this time can be crucial to both countries—South Korea and Iran—as Iran now moves into its new reconstruction phase.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives DPRK Speaker

LD1307140989 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea Yang Hyong-sop arrived here Thursday, and was welcomed by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"The main goal of my visit to Iran is to participate in the 40th-day mourning ceremonies for the death [of the] founder of the Islamic Republic, and to extend my condolences to the Iranian nation and officials," Yang said.

Expressing satisfaction with the expanding Tehran-Pyongyang relations, Yang hoped during his stay here he would hold fruitful talks with Iranian officials.

Deputy minister of natural resources and a senior Foreign Ministry official are accompanying Yang.

Opium, Heroin, Hashish Seized; Arrests Made

LD2007113689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Committee guards in Sistan va Baluchestan and Kerman Provinces have seized 222 kg of opium, 41 kg of heroin, 20 kg of opium residue, and 4 kg of hashish over the past 48 hours. They have also arrested all those involved in the trafficking of these drugs, all of whom were members of international narcotics smuggling gangs. The smugglers, together with their compiled files, were handed over to the judicial officials to receive their punishments.

22 Hung for Drugs, Prostitution 24 Jul

LD2407062289 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Twenty-two drug traffickers and prostitutes, including nine women and four Afghans were hanged, some in public, Monday [24 July].

They were convicted of drug smuggling, sale, distribution of narcotics such as heroin and opium, spreading corruption and prostitution. They had an average age of 30.

Several of those hanged had a been serving a life senctence but had continued their criminal activities after being pardoned and released from jail.

The nine women were hanged in a jail outside Tehran and the men in a number of squares in front of the public in the capital.

Over 700 smugglers have been exectured since a tough anti-drug campaign began in January.

Meanwhile a six-month grace period for addicts ended Sunday and those still hooked on drugs are being rounded up to be sent to labor camps and other correction centers.

Larijani Views Reaction to Khomeyni Death

NC2606095089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Jun 89 p 12

[Text] Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to our foreign minister, granted a brief interview to our correspondent.

Responding to a question on initial world reaction to the death of Imam Khomeyni, he said: In general, the analysis in political circles around the world was that there would be a great leadership vacuum in Iran, which would bring on a series of political crises inside the country. This was the picture that they painted with their political greed.

He added: However, it soon became obvious that this was not happening. In other words, it became obvious that the roots of the revolution in Iran are very deep and that this revolution has established its place in the Islamic world.

Dr Larijani said: Actually the criterion for judging the strength of a revolution is not that it is free of problems. What makes a revolution strong is that it is able to solve problems as they arise. This is something that our revolution has shown in its various stages. With the death of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, a new picture of Iran was presented to the world. He added: This picture is one of deepening the roots of Islam in the revolution and the roots of the revolution in the world of Islam. Iran's Islamic revolution has gained its superior position in the world, and this system has the strong foundation it needs. Thus, the world's politicians should accept this picture.

In answer to a question on where Imam Khomeyni ranks in the views of the world's political figures, he said: Without any exception, both those political figures who admired the imam and those who were hostile toward him confess to one thing and that is that the imam was a great figure and a rare phenomenon in history. World politicians believe that he combined wisdom with courage and determination and that he was a rare political figure in history.

In answer to a question about the impact of the presence of millions of mourners in Tehran, the provinces, and throughout the world of Islam on foreign relations with the East, the West, and the third world, he said:

The uprecedented presence of the people and this devotion to the revolution on the one hand, and the selection of a leader—and with such speed and accuracy—on the other, cast out any thought of aggression against our country from the mind of anyone who might have entertained such an idea. In other words, this had a significant "deterrent" effect. This has guaranteed the issue of Iran's security. Of course, this does not mean that we should sit back and do nothing about the country's defense.

The political adviser to the foreign minister said: As for Iran's relations with the countries of the world, it should be said that the people's presence in the various fields has ruled out illogical relations. Countries that cannot have logical relations with us, that constantly think of domination and pay lip service to international law, are facing a new situation today. Their hopes have turned to disappointments and they have only one alternative: to respect the heroic Iranian people. They should stop entertaining thoughts of interfering in Iran's domestic affairs.

He emphasized: We should preserve our alertness. We should not feel safe and secure. The new situation that has been created today is a great achievement and it will take our relations with the world onto the logical and correct path.

TEHRAN TIMES on Khamene'i's Qualifications

NC2206204289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 89 pp 2, 3

[Editorial: "Crucial Turning Point in the Nation's History"]

[Text] At a crucial turning point in this nation's history, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani presiding at the last Friday prayer ceremonies made a significant clarification on the future leadership role in the nation following the demise of the beloved leader Imam Khomeyni. He

confirmed that the new leadership role for Ayatollah Khamene'i had been confirmed both the late leader and endorsed by the Assembly of Experts. This lays to rest any possible doubts over the leadership role for the nation in the years to come.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the assembled Friday prayer congregation that Ayatollah Khamene'i as the new leader enjoyed a status which was as good as that of a Velayat-e Faqih (Supreme Jurisprudent) and called on all the Muslim Iranian people and particularly the 'Ulema, all the supreme religious figures in the land and all religious centers to give him (Khamene'i) their unqualified and unstinted support and follow his orders and decisions implicitly and faithfully.

The Majlis speaker who has been confirmed by Ayatollah Khamene'i as the acting armed forces commander and will be the second most important to the leader in the country, said that before his death Imam Khomeyni had told the Assembly of Experts, which is constitutionally empowered to select a successor, that the future leader need not necessarily be a 'Marja', or supreme religious leader.

He said that the assembly of experts had decided that the leadership should devolve on Ayatollah Khamene'i in keeping with the wishes of the late Imam. He also said that a leader should not only be well trained in theology but should also have gathered experience in executive affairs related to political, economic and social issues.

It was clear that after the disclosure of the unsuitability of the person earlier chosen to be the successor to the Imam (Ayatollah Montazeri) for the leadership role and following his resignation, a new basis had to be established for choice of a duccessor and it was apter for a single person to be chosen to lead rather than to have a leadership council filling the vacuum.

Although the late leader Imam Khomeyni never specifically and officially mentioned a successor there has been authentic evidence to the fact that he leaned in favor of Ayatollah Khamene'i in view of his eminent qualifications to fit the role.

Ayatollah Meshkini, who has a very wide influence in the country's theological and especially the Qom Theological School, fully backed Ayatollah Khamene'i as the foremost choice for leader and called him a person fully supported by the people, the Army and Armed Forces and the 'Ulema. The Ulema have accepted the supreme eminence of Ayatollah Khamene'i to lead the nation.

Now that there remains no doubt as to who is the leader of the Islamic Revolution, it is our expectation that the new leader in the person of Ayatollah Khamene'i will be able to lead the country towards fulfillment of all the cherished goals of the Islamic Revolution, that he will be able to ride through whatever problems have to be solved and be able to take the nation deftly along through the sensitive stages of the post-war era towards an era of reconstruction, overall prosperity and economic stability and well being for the people.

All politico-religious figures in the country have been unanimous in endorsing Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader of the nation and that he as the person coming closest to the spiritual status of Velayat-e Faqih will be able to take the nation on with determination and strength into the future.

Daily Previews Hashemi-Rafsanjani Presidency

NC0407110189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jun 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Common Views of Leader and Next President Secure Success"]

[Text] In less than a month from now the Iranian nation will go to the polling stations to vote to office a new president. Most political observers, however, staunchly believe that given the public support of Iran's Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i for Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency, and Rafsanjani's own executive capabilities and qualifications and his vast popularity, the speaker is likely to win the coming elections almost by unanimity.

Given all the positive factors that ensure an easy win for the speaker it can be said with a great amount of certainty that Iran's acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces will within a month from now take the country's political reins as president.

Now what will be his reconstruction and economic plans in particular to remedy the damaged economic base of the nation in the coming years which are earmarked as the reconstruction era?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has made quite a reputation for himself as a very successful head of the legislative body in the post of Majlis speaker. Now will the public opinion have the same high regard for him at the end of his four-year tenure as president?

For a fact to secure his popularity Hashemi-Rafsanjani will have to redress economic grievances of the nation and give priority to economic issues over the political ones.

Problems such as inflation, budget deficit, lack of coordination between industry and agriculture sectors and a population growth registered at 3.9 at present will inevitably top his list of priorities.

On the political plane he will have to concentrate on establishing fruitful diplomatic ties with various countries along the line of Iran's national interests and within the framework of Islamic principles of our revolution.

For a fact there is still a long way before we can establish the kind of economic and political balances we seek and which suit our Islamic Revolution. As such we have to bear it in mind that it is almost next to impossible to attain one without paying due attention to the other.

To achieve our economic and political objectives however the country enjoys vast resources and potentials.

It is hoped that with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president, the country's administrative system will benefit from such a high degree of coordination and executive insight as to secure the attainment of the goals set for the next decade of the revolution.

A factor that can certainly give a great boost to the success of the administration lies in the common views shared between the nation's Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i and the future executive president Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Paper Urges Participation in Election, Referendum
LD2307104289 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial Sunday that every vote in next Friday's presidential elections would be a bullet fired at the enemies of the revolution.

The paper said the Iranian nation was getting ready to once again demonstrate its power and strength by taking part in the voting for the new president and the referendum on constitutional reforms.

"Friends and foes... are waiting to see the people's reaction to these two major events. They want to see whether or not millions... will participate in the elections and the referendum just as they did under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni," it said.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI added: "Supporters of the Islamic revolution want to see an all out participation of the masses in the elections while the enemies like to see loss of public interest.

"They (enemies) would like a low-turn out in the elections so they can attribute it to the public disappointment on which they can launch their propaganda campaign.

"Therefore, even a single ballot is important and counts.... Each vote is a bullet fired at the heart of the enemies."

Ayatollah Rohani on Participation in Elections
PM2906135489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jun 89 p 3

[Interview with Ayatollah Rohani, "religious leader of the Shi'ites in Europe," by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] What conditions and developments prompted your nomination for the presidential elections in Iran?

[Rohani] Over the past decade there has been no government or president in the known sense. There was one person who ran affairs according to his own instructions—Khomeyni. There was no freedom, because Khomeyni placed himself above the people. This is why I considered the announcement about organizing elections in Iran an opportunity not to be missed. The major states which dealt with the regime in the past period considered that their dealings with Iran were with a disabled and aging man who would not live long. Thus, I decided to nominate myself in order to work toward achieving the revolution's objectives, only one of which was achieved, that is, the removal of the shah.

[Musa] Are you as powerful and influential as your rival Hashemi-Rafsanjani?

[Rohani] More powerful, since I have my own achievements as a mujtahid [a person who formulates independent decisions based on Islamic interpretation] and professor of jurisprudence at the religious seminary in Qom. I have a Ph.D. in philosophy from the Sorbonne. I also have my books and translations. Today there are influential groups in Iran, the most notable of which are the clerics and the intelligentsia, and I enjoy the confidence of a major proportion of the two groups. This, in addition to my family's status in the country and among 'ulema.

[Musa] Who asked you to nominate yourself?

[Rohani] Many 'ulema, students, and intellectuals at various levels.

Obviously after 10 years' experience Rafsanjani is now practiced in power. But the Iranian people are not satisfied with him because of the shortcomings in all fields: No economy and no infrastructures at present. The reason is the war into which he pushed us, and the orphans, widows, and refugees, as well as the political conflicts. All this proves their failure in running the affairs.

[Musa] Do you still have religious links with the authorities in Qom?

[Rohani] I maintain permanent links with with the religious authorities.

[Musa] Even during the period in which you opposed Khomeyni's policy?

[Rohani] My links are not with Rafsanjani or Khamene'i. Most clerics—of whom there are nearly 120,000—disagree with the current policy. My links are certainly with the 'ulema other than the political clique. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Strong figures in Iran such as Montazeri cannot deny the reality you mentioned. So how about you?

[Rohani] Who said Montazeri is a strong man? He was among those who implemented Khomeyni's policy. He was one of his supporters. When he became aware of Khomeyni's illness, he began preparing to replace him, but the power struggle eliminated him.

[Musa] When will you return to Iran?

[Rohani] I sent an official message to the Iranian Interior Ministry, asking to return to to the country. I am awaiting a reply, but if I do not receive one by the end of the week, I will send another cable. My participation in the elections there depends on whether or not they will be free.

[Musa] How can you return when you oppose the revolution?

[Rohani] That is untrue. I am one of the the revolution's prime supporters, as I have announced at several news conferences. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Are you coordinating with the Iranian opposition abroad, namely, with Bani-Sadr, Mas'ud Rajavi, and Shahpur Bakhtiar?

[Rohani] On the nomination question I proceed from a basic premise; that is, the question of freedom and justice. I concentrate my contacts inside, not outside, the country. The opposition abroad will not be able to reach an agreement, because many tend to give predominance to personal interest over the public interest. Thus, I see no benefit from dealing with them. They are formulating a program different from mine and from my view of the situation in Iran. They are pressing for a secular national system, whereas I am for an open Islamic republic. This, because the Iranian people are Muslims, and if the Muslim republic's image has been distorted in Iran, is is the duty of all of us to correct that image. [passage omitted]

[Musa] How do you see the future of relations between Iran and the Arab states?

[Rohani] We have one future, we are neighbors, we have one religion, we have one objective and one power, and we are bound by brotherhood. So there must be understanding, cooperation, coordination, and permanent peace between us. As for relations with the East and the West, I believe that Iran's policy must be reconciliation with all peoples and all parties. Iran needs the West now more than ever. They have the expertise and the capabilities.

[Musa] What about relations with Iraq specifically?

[Rohani] After Iraq's withdrawal from Khorramshah I contacted the Iranian Government and urged it to sign a reconciliation treaty. At that time someone contacted me and offered to pay the costs of the war—namely, $80 million—on the basis that we are brothers and the fighting must stop. I believe that matters should be resolved through dialogue and understanding, not guns and missiles. This, because the endless resources exhausted could have been used for the prosperity of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, not for purchasing equipment of destruction and murder from arms dealers. [passage omitted]

Larijani Explains Constitutional Changes

NC2107142489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jul 89 p 3

[Article by Dr Javad Larijani: "The New Constitution and National Security"]

[Text] 1. For any government of any brand of "ideology," security of state is the first priority. Even more: The government is supposed to mobilize all the possibilities and potentialities of state to respond to any serious threat to the security of the nation; and this is exactly where the national strategy for security begins.

2. In the amendment prepared for the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran, there is a completely new article, creating a new institution called "Supreme Security Council" (briefly we refer to as S.S.C).

This council is headed directly by the president and all the decisions will be ratified only after the approval of the leadership.

3. The main objectives of SSC are clearly stated in the article itself: "For the purpose of safeguarding the territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and determination of defense-security policies of the state for attainment of national interests within the framework and general principles identified by the leadership; and for the sake of coordination of political, security, social, cultural, and economic activities in connection with general defense-security measures and for the sake of mobilizing the material and moral potentialities of the country to confront the internal and external threats, the Supreme Security Council presided over by the president will be created...."

4. So, the Supreme Security Council is charged with immensely important reponsibilities which encompasses a wide range of issues. Fortunately this comprehensiveness has already been envisaged in the article, giving the power to the president to create committees and subcommittees in accordance to needs.

No doubt, SSC will have a strong effect in shaping and formulating national strategies for important issues, as also will create the much needed coherence in the functioning of different governmental bodies.

Justice Minister on Leadership, Constitution

LD1907134689

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0933 GMT on 19 July broadcasts the second part of a recorded interview with Iranian Justice Minister Dr Hasan Habibi by the manager of the social group of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The date and place of the interview are not given. The 34-minute interview begins with the announcer summarizing the topics covered in the first part of the interview on amending the Constitution. He then asks Habibi to elaborate on the question of the leadership and the leader's authority as well as on the duties and role of the expediency discernment council. Habibi comments in very general terms and reads from Articles 5, 107, 110, and 108 of the Constitution relating to the qualities of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] and the leadership and recounts how Imam Khomeyni gave his opinion on the issue, saying "that the condition of marja'iyat [source of emulation as a state of being] is not necessary and that a just mojtahed [jurisprudent] who is approved by the respected experts all over the country will suffice."

On the responsibilities and parameters of the leader's authority, he quotes from Article 110 of the Constitution and points to how the amended article "clarifies" the basic question of which authority is ultimately responsible for the determination and direction of overall policies. Habibi says: "Here it will be noted that the determination of the overall policies of the system and supervision over the proper implementation of the overall policies of the system—these two [duties and responsibilities] have been mentioned. In truth, the discussions we had over these issues was: Who should be presenting or formulating overall policy, policy decisions, or big socio-economic plans? Who should be issuing the basic guidelines for these? Should it be the government? The economic council, or the high council of the cultural revolution, or the cabinet, or the Majlis? So, all in all, the issue was not clear and no one really knew since this was a fundamental issue. Thus, it became clear that the responsibility for determinining overall policy lies with the leadership which is also responsible for supervising their proper implementation."

On the Expediency Discernment Council, Habibi describes how the council came into being on the orders of the imam for the purpose of regulating the decisions or viewpoints of the Council of Guardians and the Majlis and how it is covered in the amended Constitution under Article 112, which will continue its role as arbitrator of discerning what is in the best interest of the system if there are differences of opinion between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians.

At the end of the interview the announcer states the interview will continue "in the coming days."

Officials Discuss Constitutional Amendments

LD2307133389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] On the eve of the referendum on the amendment of the Constitution, which will be held simultaneously with the fifth presidential elections on 28 July, this morning, Messrs Mohammad Yazdi and Hasan Habibi, two members of the board of directors of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, expounded on the amendments carried out by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution in a news conference with domestic and foreign correspondents.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr Yazdi, in reply to a question on how and by which authority the fundamental points stipulated in Article 177 will be clarified, said: The long experience of the past decade has shown that some of the articles of the Constitution have encountered obstacles in practice which it was not possible to rectify through the normal channels. Therefore, it was considered essential to make amendments to the structure and foundation of the Constitution. The sources of expediency for such essential points are those individuals and experts who hold high-ranking positions with respect to the executive, legislative, and judicial responsibilities of the system.

Regarding the amendments carried out in Article 109 of the Constitution pertaining to the characteristics and prerequisites of leadership, the member of the board of directors of the Council for the reappraisal of the constitution said: In light of the fact that the principle of the supremacy of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] is one of the definite and fundamental bases of our system, the leadership in the Islamic system has general and firm requirements. The leader, from the time he assumes this responsibility certainly should possess such requirements. In addition, the selection of the leader in the future will be made by the experts. When the experts discern the necessary requirements for leadership in an individual, then that person will be chosen as the leader.

In connection with the limits to the authority of the Expediency Discernment Council and its stipulation as an article in the Constitution, Mr Hasan Habibi said: Among the issues that were not endorsed in the previous Constitution is that of establishing a general policy for

the country's diplomacy. However, at present, following negotiations with the expediency Discernment Council the general policy of the system will be fixed and elaborated. Therefore, the granting of a legal base to this council is essential in light of its three fundamental duties: voicing its opinion in cases of disagreement between the Majlis and the Council of guardians, advising the leadership, and taking the initiative with respect to solving systemic problems.

Asked how any other council that may be established will be made official despite the existence of the Expediency Discernment Council, the legal basis for which has already been fixed, and what policies will be used to prevent the establishment of parallel systems of consultation, he replied: Of course, the leadership has the authority to consult awith any rank or apparatus it considers suitable, but if other councils exist for this purpose, they will have to be reconsidered so that in the future we will have fewer executive and parallel ranks.

In addition, Mr Habibi discussed the concentration of the leadership's powers and the means for controlling them. He said: In light of the fact that the amendments to the Constitution transfer the prime minister's powers to the president, it is possible to question the president. The Constitution has made provision for a mechanism to check the president, and it is possible for this to be implemented.

Regarding the manner in which the judicial branch can be called to answer the Majlis, Dr Habibi said: The judicial apparatus has two fundamental tasks. One is to resolve judicial issues, the other is to resolve management issues. As for the first, it is not possible to question them, while regarding the executive and managerial issues of the justice department, the situation is different. If the minister of justice does not act correctly with respect to the executive and managerial issues referred to him, then it is possible to question him.

With respect to the impact the constitutional amendments will have on social and economic issues, Dr Habibi reiterated that these amendments will not have a direct impact. However, indirectly, with regard to the political and social experience any individual may possess, more beneficial decisions can be reached when there is a close connection between the consideration of an issue and the implementation of related measures. It is the responsibility of the officials to carry out this law in the best possible way.

At the end of this interview, Mr Yazdi expressed his gratitude to all individuals and groups that have played an active role in the issue of reappraising the Constitution. He called for the people's comprehensive presence in the referendum on the amendment of the Constitution and remarked that with their extensive participation in this referendum the people will be achieving a decisive and continuous struggle against the enemies of Islam, as well as participating in one of the country's most significant tasks.

*** Azari-Qomi on Public's Questions on Emulation**
46400090b Tehran RESALAT in Persian
18 Jun 89 p 2

[Text] News Department—Because of repeated questions by the people regarding "emulation," last Friday the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary made the subject of "emulation" a part of their agenda.

During an interview, our correspondent questioned His Eminence Ayatollah Azari-Qomi about the decision which was reached at yesterday's meeting by the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary. He said:

Question: Your Eminence Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, after the death of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the great source of emulation Imam Khomeyni, may Almighty God grant him paradise, the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran is looking for its duty in emulation. In view of the fact that the holy imam, especially in his recent messages, directed the attention of the heroic people of Iran to the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, please tell us what decisions have been made by the society at this sensitive juncture.

He answered: On Friday (26 Khordad 1368) [16 June 1989] the official session of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary convened at 6 pm. At this meeting, attended by 20 of this society's prominent jurist consults, scholars, and persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, a decisive majority voted for the emulation of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani, may his life be long.

He added: The Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary believes there is no reason why he should not be emulated.

In a brief telephone interview, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reza Ostadi, Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary member and secretary, told our correspondent: This decision was made by an affirmative vote of 19 of the 20 persons attending the meeting. He said: In this decision, the members of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary "considered emulation of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani permissible."

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi was asked about the fact that some unaware people had raised questions concerning his remarks at the Assembly of Experts to the effect that it is incumbent upon everyone to follow Ayatollah Khamene'i and that he has absolute vice-regency, in the same way that the imam of the nation had absolute vice-regency. He said: If we expect our domestic and foreign enemies unequivocally to accept the religious,

legal, and revolutionary decisions of the highest decision-making authority with regard to the leadership, we have made a mistake. In the words of our late leader, whenever our enemies praise us we must look for the weakness in our work. Our domestic enemies include the liberals and the court clergy who were willing to bow down before the traitor Mohammad Reza Shah and call him the shadow of God, or the petrified people who believe they must fan the flames of sin and debauchery as much as possible so that the imam of the age (May God hasten his joyful advent). [sentence as published] These are the people who, early in our movement, accused the great leader of the revolution of illiteracy, lack of piety and faith, and even, God forbid, infidelity. Yet the imam had the best, most scholarly, and even the largest class at the Qom Seminary and was the most influential speaker on ethics and piety, as well as the greatest and most active friend and supporter of Islam, the seminaries and the Islamic sources of emulation.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi added: Despite the comprehensive affirmation that the great man of history and humanity His Eminence the Exalted Mohammad (peace be upon him) gave to 'Ali Ibn-Abi Taleb at Ghadir-e Khom, they removed him from office on the pretext of his youthful age and good nature, which are the attributes of the faithful, and they forgot those affirmations. Two of the divine prophets reached the station of prophecy and rule in their youth; God called Yahya in his youth and he designated Jesus as a prophet in the cradle.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi added: Two of our chaste imams reached the lofty position of imamate in childhood. His Eminence Javad (peace be upon him) and His Eminence Imam Hadi (peace be upon him), and a number of our clergymen and jurist consults reached the station of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence before maturity.

The member of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council said: Some people, with false reasoning and sophistry, divide the fifty years of the life of the new leader into three periods. The last period is the ten years after the triumph of the revolution, then the 15 years before the triumph of the revolution and the first 25 years of his life. In the ten years after the triumph of the revolution he was occupied with executive work, and the 15 years before the revolution was the period of his struggle with imprisonment and exile. The useful years of his life for studying religious sciences are therefore only ten. This accounting is like the comment of the preacher who said: Khasan and Hoseyn were all three daughters of Moghaviyeh, who were ripped apart by a wolf behind the Kufa gate. In answer one must say: Khasan and Hoseyn were two people, not three, their names were Hasan and Hoseyn, they were boys, not girls, they were the children of 'Ali (Peace Be upon Him), not Moghaviyeh, moreover Mo'aviyeh is correct, not Moghaviyeh, the one who was ripped apart by wolves was Yusef, and even that was a lie, it was in Canaan, not Kufa.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi added: Fazel Hendi attained independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence at the age of 13, and I remember well that he (Ayatollah Khamene'i) was one of the outstanding students at Qom and Mashhad at the age of 16. Isn't 30 years enough time to reach the stage of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence? Suppose he did not spend the first ten years of his life and ten years after the triumph of the revolution studying, even if it is not true. We ask, what meaning do you give to the concept of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence where there is natural talent for inference? Someone who spent six years studying the external principles, which were generally presented by the great men and professors such as the late Akhund Khorasani, Na'ini, Mohaqqeq Damad, and our great leader, in view of his talents, will certainly reach the rank of one who has independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence.

Of course there is a great deal of difference between this kind of independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence as an inborn talent and the formal attainment of one with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, because the formal rank requires the study of religious interpretation, commentary, and the Traditions of the Prophet, which requires a lot of time. According to our late leader, it requires more than 60 or 70 years of work around the clock, and even then one may not arrive at an opinion on many issues and will have to exercise caution.

The member of the Assembly of Experts said: Has the independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence of our great leader been confirmed by anyone other than 12 members of the Assembly of Experts? Were not Mr Khamene'i's qualifications confirmed not only by these people but also by the entire Assembly of Experts?

Isn't the statement by the leader of the revolution concerning Mr Khamene'i, as quoted by his dear and esteemed son, enough? He said: Mr Khamene'i clearly has independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence. Isn't His Eminence the imam's remark in his letter to Mr Khamene'i sufficient? He said: You are educated in the principles of theology and you have that under control. Aren't the testimonies of the experts enough, people like the Ayatollahs, Hojjaj ol-Eslam and Mojtahed teachers Fazel Lankarani, Javadi Amoli, Rohani, Mozaheri, Meshkini, Musavi-Ardabili, Amini, Mo'men, Taheri Haramabadi, Sane'i, Rasti Kashani, Khaz'ali, Janati, Emami-Kashani, and a great many others who either have independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence or are close to that status, when testimony from only two of those people is sufficient? Isn't the testimony to his leadership from great sources of emulation such as Golpayegani and Araki sufficient?

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi added: I advise some of the clergy who are counterrevolutionary, indifferent, or devoid of spirituality to realize that this revolution is here to stay and that this spreading of poison will not weaken our revolutionary nation, when there is victory and assistance from these people, as well as the help of God. This spreading of poison will have no result other than to make your black dossiers blacker.

I want to caution the dear believers not to let these beautifully-patterned snakes endanger their religion and world. 'Ali ibn Ja'far 'Omavi, the eighth imam and the great father of the ninth imam, took the shoes of Imam Javad (Peace Be upon Him), who became an imam as a child, and matched them with his feet. Khamene'i is more than 60 years old, and he can easily take on that holy man's imamate.

In conclusion he added: God willing, in the near future we will also discuss the absolute vice-regency of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Ayatollah Yazdi, a jurist consult on the Council of Guardians, answered a question from our correspondent about who those who had emulated His Eminence the imam concerning new developments should now emulate, and who those who have reached majority age should emulate. He said: It is the view of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary that there is no obstacle to emulating Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani. This is also my view, and I said this in my previous interview with you.

Ayatollah Yazdi added: In any case, Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani is one of the famous sources of emulation who have followed the imam's path throughout the revolution as far as I remember. He has never had a view in opposition to the imam's, and he has always supported the government of the Islamic Republic.

The member of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council said: I remember when the Friday imam of Golpayegan was being appointed. His eminence the imam told him, you appoint the Friday imam there. He answered: Appointing the Friday imam is part of the authority of the leader and one of the functions of the government, and he should be appointed by you. In this regard he was not willing to interfere. Finally the imam said, then you designate him and I will give the order. My point is that he observed the rules to this extent.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Yazdi said: Those who emulated his eminence the imam may emulate Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani, and clearly they may also refer to him on matters having to do with contemporary developments. Likewise, there is no obstacle for those of majority age emulating Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani.

Ayatollah Rasti Kashani, member of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary and member of the Qom Seminary Managing Council, answered a question from our correspondent concerning emulation of Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani. He said: In my view, it is allowable to emulate him as the continuation of emulating the imam, and in occasional situations where it is necessary or where the religious decrees of the imam cannot be implemented, one may act on the religious decrees of Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani.

He added: He is qualified as a source of emulation, and there is no problem referring to him with regard to new situations.

In conclusion, he discussed those who have reached responsible age. He said: In my view, it is permissible for them to emulate Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani.

Ayatollah Mo'men, member of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary and one of the jurist consults on the Council of Guardians, discussed the emulation of Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani. He said: At the official meeting of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary we held last Friday, the vote was almost unanimous that there is no obstacle to emulating him.

He added: Usually in the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, any issue with 14 votes is considered passed. More than 14 of the gentlemen voted for this. Therefore, in the view of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, there is no problem with emulating Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani.

Ayatollah Anvari, member of the Central Council of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergymen, was asked who the emulators of his eminence the imam should emulate in the continuation of emulation. He said: In my view, the emulators of his eminence the imam may in this matter emulate His Eminence Ayatollah al- 'Ozma' Golpayegani and continue emulation in those matters they have acted upon.

Ayatollah Anvari said: Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani is a great jurist consult. He is respected by the nation's great teachers, clergy, and jurist consults. Most of them see no problem with emulating him.

Ayatollah Anvari added: His greatness has a most luminous record of struggle over the last few years, and he acted very well in the overthrow of the Pahlavi regime, along with the imam and other sources of emulation.

He said: Along with Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Mohaqqeq Damad, he was a confidant of the imam of the nation, may the peace of God be upon him. May God preserve his blessed being.

Ayatollah Anvari said: Recently the imam of the nation has delegated precautions to his greatness.

The member of the Assembly of Experts said: Those who have reached the responsible age and want to emulate may take it upon themselves to emulate him.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Anvari emphasized: On this matter, I have personally referred those who have referred me to him. The member of the Central Council of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergymen also said: I personally admire and respect him.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Sheykh 'Ali Akbar Mas'udi, member of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, gave a brief interview to our correspondent. He said: At the official Friday meeting of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, attended by 20 great jurist consults and clergymen, the matter of emulation was discussed and by a vote of 19 to one it was decided that that it is authorized and without objection to emulate Ayatollah al- 'Ozma' Golpayegani.

The member of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary added: God willing, those who emulated his eminence the imam will refer to him, and in matters they have acted upon they will continue their emulation, and on matters they have not acted upon, they should emulate him.

He also said in conclusion: Thus, it is permissible for those who have reached majority age to emulate Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani.

His Eminence Ayatollah Movahhedi-Kermani, member of the Central Council of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergymen, gave a brief telephone interview in which he answered a question about who he thought those who have reached majority age can emulate. He said: In my view, there is no obstacle if these people emulate Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Golpayegani.

He also said: Those who emulated the imam, by refering to him, can continue their emulation.

Election Supervisory Committees Established

LD2307122789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The central committee for supervising the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidential election and constitutional referendum was formed under the Ministry of Interior's deputy for administrative and financial affairs. According to the Central News Unit, the central committee for supervising the election is responsible for the correctness of the election and the referendum and, to that end, supervisory committees consisting of (?three) people (?responsible to) the governor-generals' deputy for political and administrative affairs and two eligible people chosen by the governor-general have been established in the provinces for controlling the election process by stationary and mobile means.

The committees will be responsible for supervising and controlling the election process and during three time periods—before, during, and after the election—will undertake the required supervision. In the case of witnessing any offense detrimental to the integrity of the election and the referendum, they must report the circumstances toward the implementation of legal processes to the governor-general or the rural district officer of the constituency and to the province's supervisory committee.

The report states: Three people will (?be designated) and chosen as the supervisory committees of the towns of every province by the person in charge of each province's supervisory committee and [word indistinct].

ABRAR on Need To Improve Economic Structure

LD0507131789 Tehran IRNA in English 1217 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 5 IRNA—The daily ABRAR said today that the Iranian society will flouirish by improving the country's economic structure.

"The Iranian society must review ways to solve its economic problems more deeply now that it is in a new stage of its life."

There are two parallel ways ahead: The first one is the economic structure of the country and the second improving the qualitative and quantitative living status of each member of the society, the daily said.

Investment would not give any results if only the second way, that is the society's welfare, is taken into regard.

The daily recommended that temporary ways could be used for economic infrastructure of the country.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a recent speech reminded that economy would not flourish without production.

He stressed that all the existing industrial and agricultural possibilities should be utilised properly.

Economic improvement would be possible when the society enjoys political stability and economic security, it said.

Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Reconstruction

NC2207074789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Mr Mirzadeh, deputy prime minister for executive affairs and head of the central headquarters for reconstructed and renovated areas of the country, has stated that credit of 70 billion rials has been earmarked in the current [Iranian] year for the implementation of

reconstruction projects. More than $150 million in foreign exchange is also to be allocated for the purchase of construction materials and household goods for the residents of areas that are tobe reconstructed.

Mr Mirzadeh, who was speaking yesterday during the commencement of reconstruction activities in Dehloran, said that 5,500 housing, commercial, administrative, health, and educational units in Dehloran are to be reconstructed with credit of 10 billion rials from the Ilam Province reconstruction and renovation headquarters. He added that by the end of the current [Iranian] year, a number of Dehloran's residents are to return to their city in order to participate in and directly supervise the reconstruction operations. He also said that 2.2 billion rials are to be added to the current credits for Ilam Province in order to accelerate reconstruction there.

Yesterday, at the same time as reconstruction activities commenced in Dehloran, the 100-number telephone exchange of the city bcame operational. This the telephone link between the people in that region and the rest of the country and abroad was re-established after 9 years.

Pakistan

50 Arrested in Police Sweep in Hyderabad

BK2407163489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1620 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Karachi, July 24 (AFP)—At least 50 people were pulled out of their beds and rounded up in a midnight swoop by police in downtown Hyderabad, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of here, press reports said Monday [24 July].

The detainees, mostly youths, were arrested without being charged and without confrontation, the reports said.

The arrests increased tensions in the city, already under curfew, and many people demonstrated in front of a police station against the action, residents were quoted as saying.

Among those arrested were organisers of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and the Muhajir Ittehad Tehrik (MIT), both representing Urdu-speaking settlers in southern Sind Province, the reports said.

Officials have not commented on the arrests, which follow repeated violations of a curfew imposed after communal clashes on Wednesday in which eight people died.

Three people have been killed since Wednesday, while police said sporadic gunfire and stabbing incidents were also reported.

The Sind chief minister, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, has ordered the law-enforcing agencies to wipe out elements responsible for "terrorism and armed robberies" in the province," officials said.

Major changes in the provincial administration were being contemplated by the government of Mr. Shah to address the current situation, press reports said.

Bhutto Reviews Political, Economic Topics

PM1907141689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 89 pp 12-13

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by 'Uthman al-'Umayr on 11 July in London]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-'Umayr] You always talk about corruption and your efforts to fight it. When you assumed power you brought corruption with you. Your mother is now your deputy as head of government, and there are other women. She adjusted her shawl over her yellow Pakistani national dress, then placed her spectacles on the table, her eyes revealing her eagerness to answer.

[Bhutto] I did not bring my mother into the government. She was freely elected a member of parliament. The truth of the matter is that both my mother and I made history because we were both elected in areas other than our areas of origin. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] We must ask: What has Mrs Bhutto done for Pakistan since assuming power? [passage omitted]

[Bhutto] I feel great satisfaction when I look back on the first 8 months of the Pakistan People's Party government. That, for us, was a period of transition from dictatorship to democracy. It was a period that required careful handling of political matters. We did that, and we managed it at a time when our society did not fully accept democracy. Despite that, we allowed freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and—for the first time—we allowed the opposition to appear on television and radio. We inherited a gloomy economic picture but we soon took steps to mobilize our resources in the country's interest. We enlarged the tax network, reduced the budget deficit, and brought down inflation.

I am happy to say that our first budget was approved in June and the country received it with satisfaction. It was the first step toward regaining economic strength. We inherited a difficult situation but the steps we have taken to ease tension with our neighbor, India, have enabled us to concentrate fully on the North, where the Soviets have withdrawn and where the Afghan question has entered a complex and intricate phase. Although we were busy consolidating the institutions and taking care of the economy and of economic affairs, I managed to visit Saudi Arabia to perform a minor pilgrimage and I also visited China, Japan, Turkey, Iraq, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Today I believe that, with a

government representing the people in Pakistan, the country has gained in prestige and that is a source of pride not only to the Pakistanis but to all Muslims, because the Islamic nation shares all its causes, concerns, and troubles.

[Al-'Umayr] Speaking of Pakistan's economy, we must inquire further. How, as a government, are you handling the extremely difficult economic situation in your country?

[Bhutto] It will not be easy. The economy is bankrupt. Not only is the economy bankrupt but Ziaul Haq and his regime spent colossal sums which, instead of being allocated to development and employment projects, were channeled into nondevelopment expenditure. We had loans but nothing to show what was achieved through these loans. At that time the government decided to print money, which disappeared just like that. Now we are a responsible government. We have reduced the levels of crime, drug smuggling, waste, and embezzlement in our country. We are trying to clean up our society. Our ministers have managed to cut our nondevelopment civil service expenditure by 3 billion rupees. When you know that our total revenue from taxes is 9 billion rupees you will realize how important 3 billion rupees are.

Every year they [the former government] used to increase nondevelopment expenditure by 15 percent, but we have reduced it by 3 billion rupees. To achieve that we had to introduce austerity measures. For example, the prime minister's home expenditure has been dramatically reduced since we assumed power. We have postponed the purchase of the Gulfstream aircraft for 1 year so the federal government could demonstrate that it was a prosperous year. We stopped purchases of new cars for government employees and stopped first class travel. [passage omitted]

We do not allow corruption and are therefore in a position to make better use of our resources, but it will require great efforts to restore good conditions in the country. We also have the problem of the Afghan refugees. Our wheat, sugar, and cooking oil is smuggled across the border. If we did not allow that contraband more people would enter our country, so we have to overlook that matter, which affects our economy, because whenever we need to import wheat it makes heavy inroads on our foreign currency reserves. We also rely on rice and cotton exports. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] Tell me, Prime Minister, can you really tackle the drug problem? There are rumors that certain Pakistani Army elements are involved.

[Bhutto] Let me tell you this: We are fighting drugs and drugs are fighting us. The people involved are so powerful that if you began to pursue them they would face you and fight you. Especially in recent times, Pakistan has become a country full of drugs. Ziaul Haq's regime overlooked the matter and we suspect that this was because there was some patronage there. As far as our government is concerned, we want a clean and pure society which cannot be achieved if corruption, favoritism, and smuggling are allowed. I must say that drug smuggling and turning people into drug addicts is the worst possible thing, especially in our country where we do not have sufficient resources for treating drug addicts. [passage omitted]

As far as the Army is concerned, I know that it wants to root out this evil, and people from the Army have told me that if ever we needed any help from it in combating drug addiction, they would be willing to help. I do not know about individual cases, but I do know that the general view in Pakistan is that it is a moral necessity to rid Pakistan of this evil. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] Many people in Pakistan, and particularly in Afghanistan, are not happy about your Afghan policy.

[Bhutto] They have not told me that they disapprove.

[Al-'Umayr] Especially people who do not share your views.

[Bhutto] No, I meet with them all the time and they come to see me, and we talk about fighting evil. I have not encountered any problems in dealing with them. True, certain political parties recently wanted to control them, influence them politically, and make them take a stand against us, but they have known us for a long time and have been there since my father's days. We have good relations with them. They are frank with me and I am frank with them. I do not believe there is a problem.

[Al-'Umayr] Some people believe that you favor a peaceful solution, which is not what certain circles want.

[Bhutto] They want to achieve a certain objective and they know that there is a central government, which is what matters. If you can fulfill your aim by political means, it is better than losing lives and limbs in fighting. Nobody has told me that he wants to fight for the sake of fighting. They have told me that they want to achieve their objective by political or military means. If the political option is possible, then why take the military option? However, if the political option proves impossible, then you have to make a difficult choice.

[Al-'Umayr] Observers of your experiment and your delicate relations with certain forces in Pakistan immediately think of the Sudanese situation. Do you think we will see another Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in you?

[Bhutto] You mean, if a coup takes place. I have no intention of becoming a second al-Mahdi. I have faith in God and a sense of duty which I must perform to seize the historic opportunity awaiting Pakistan. A great opportunity awaits Pakistan, and there is a great position for Pakistan, with its people enjoying freedom and equal opportunity. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] What about the nuclear policy previously adopted by your father to bring Pakistan into the nuclear club?

[Bhutto] Well, my father did utter his famous words about having an Islamic nuclear bomb, but I believe there has been much anxiety about nuclear proliferation. I do not want to see my country internationally isolated and exposed to danger because of nuclear suspicions and nuclear arguments. That is why the government has announced that it will not produce any nuclear bombs. This is because we are against nuclear proliferation, but we also believe that there should not be a unilateral approach to this issue. There should be a regional solution, because if one country in the region carried out a nuclear explosion we would come under enormous pressure to do the same. As you know, once you have the knowledge you cannot give it up. Because of my father's efforts, we now have the knowledge, but because of our human beliefs and our belief in a sound world, we have no intention of producing nuclear bombs, but are seeking a regional solution whereby the region's countries could work together to prevent nuclear proliferation. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] What do you think of what happened in holy Mecca? I am referring to the two explosions.

[Bhutto] I am sorry, but I am not familiar with the details yet.

[Al-'Umayr] When I explained to her what happened, there was anger in her face. She said:

[Bhutto] That is regrettable. I always feel that this is God's house and should be kept out of all political sentiments and affiliations. I cannot imagine how any Mulsim could do such a thing. I am shocked when I hear such news. [passge omitted]

Sri Lanka

More on Fate of LTTE Leader Prabhakaran

Foreign Minister Denies Death Report

BK2407160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] There are conflicting reports about the fate of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Mr Prabhakaran. Agency reports quote the Sri Lanka agriculture minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, saying that the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, has been killed.

However, the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, told a press conference in Colombo this morning that the story circulated about the killing of Mr Prabhakaran is fabricated.

LTTE: Indian 'Disinformation'

BK2407152489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group denied Monday [24 July] the reported death of its chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and accused India of spreading "disinformation."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a statement received here from London, "categorically" denied reports that Mr. Prabhakaran "has been assassinated and there has been a split in the movement."

The statement followed reports in the state-controlled media in India that Mr. Prabhakaran had been killed in an apparent internal clash within the LTTE and that the group's leadership had been taken over by its number two, known by his nom de guerre Mahataya.

"These reports are malicious lies deliberately fabricated by the Government of India to discredit our organisation and to confuse the world," the statement by the LTTE's Political Committee said. "It should be pointed out that the Government of India has launched a malicious disinformation campaign against the LTTE ever since the peace talks began between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers," it said.

"The LTTE wishes to register its strong protest to the Government of India for the vicious propaganda campaign which is aimed to tarnish the image of our leadership," it added.

Strong rumours have been circulating virtually in the whole of Sri Lanka for the past five days about the reported killing in the northern Wanni jungles of the LTTE supremo by Mahataya, who is known to be a hardliner.

Reports from the Tamil-populated northeast, where India has some 45,000 troops, have also referred to portraits of Mr. Prabhakaran being put up in some villages and people garlanding them.

The LTTE, the strongest Tamil rebel group, has repudiated a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, which sought to end Tamil separatism, and has been fighting a guerrilla war against India troops since October that year.

The four paragraph LTTE statement said that besides "unleashing a propaganda war," India had also intensified military operations against the LTTE, whose leaders are known to be holed up in Wanni jungles.

LTTE sources said Indian Air Force jets had been dropping 250-kilogramme (550-pound) bombs on the LTTE guerrilla bases in the Wanni jungles, which cover vast areas in the north and east, since Thursday.

"It is very obvious that the Indian strategy is aimed to disrupt the current dialogue between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to seek legitimacy for the continuous military occupation of the northeastern region of the island," the statement said.

LTTE sources said a senior guerrilla leader, known only as Maran, and his aide had died in the Wanni area about 12 days ago and that his photographs may have been put up by villagers.

Mr. Prabhakaran, who founded the LTTE in 1976, is a self-trained guerrilla who was once based in southern India. Since October 1987, he has been directing a bloody bush war against the Indians from the Wanni jungles.

Nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers and thousands of civilians and suspected militants have died in fighting, which continues despite Sri Lankan calls to New Delhi to halt its military offensive against the LTTE.

The LTTE opened peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government in April.

Chief of Radio, Television Network Shot Dead

BK2307084089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0800 GMT 23 Jul 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Unidentified gunmen this morning shot dead Thevis Guruge, chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the competent authority of the Independent Television Network [ITN], at the park road Polhengoda road junction, in Colombo 05.

Mr Guruge was also the senior competent authority for the current press censorship.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that Mr Guruge was on a morning walk, when the gunmen riding in a 'Lancer' car opened fire, killing him.

The incident occurred at 0710 hours [0140 GMT] today.

Premadasa on Assassinations Investigation, IPKF

BK2107125189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] The government parliamentary group has unanimously resolved to call upon the government to investigate whether a foreign power is behind the assassination of politicians and assassination attempts on public personalities that had taken place in the recent past.

Buddhika Kurukularatne, MP [member of Parliament] for the Galle District, who moved the motion yesterday, said that grave doubts are now being entertained by many that the wave of violence unleashed is an attempt to destabilize small nations such as Sri Lanka.

President Premadasa said that the government had launched a full investigation into all political assassinations. While a majority of those killed were UNP [United National Party] politicians, those of other parties who had stood for democratic elections have also been assassinated. Even those who did not stand for an election and other innocent people have been killed. He hoped that the investigations will reveal the truth. The president regretted that certain other parties did not express regret when UNP politicians were killed. But the UNP on its part regretted and condemned the assassinations, whatever party the politicians belonged to. That was the humanitarian way the government acts.

Mr Premadasa said that the government was aware of attempts made by various forces to disturb and sabotage the government activity and create confusion. These forces know that if the various programs now in the process of being implemented bear fruit, it would thwart their political ambitions. There may be attempts by some to commit crime and put the blame on others.

Replying to matters raised by the minister of state for construction, Anura Ranatunge, regarding the month-long SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] strike, the president said that the strike was launched without any prior notice or demands being put forward. A large number of workers were prepared to come to work, but did not do so through fear. The minister of transport then asked what their demands were. The Satan Madhyasthanaye [transport workers union] put forward 11 demands. The minister found that eight of the demands could be implemented. He has also stated that there were certain disparities which needed to be rectified. Meanwhile, certain organizations attempted to put fuel onto the fire by making impossible demands. The Satan Madhyasthanaye representatives wrote to him asking him to intervene in this matter and evolve a reasonable solution through the good offices of the minister of state for information, A.J. Ranasinghe, and Mr (Rupman Senanayake).

With the cooperation of the prime minister, the minister of transport and highways and officers of the SLTB, it was possible to settle the issue.

President Premadasa also briefed the group on the present position regarding his call for the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] from the country. He also briefed the group on the arrival of the Indian prime minister's special envoy to Sri Lanka on the 11th

of this month and how the special envoy and his delegation were requested to hold discussions with the president's officials based on the four basic premises that were set out in his letter addressed to the Indian prime minister on the 12th of this month.

Explaining further to the group, the president said that the call for the withdrawal of the IPKF was not new. He said that it was to honor the election pledge that the government has called for the withdrawal of troops as far as possible by the 29th of this month.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party also in its election manifesto pledged to send back the IPKF and even abrogate the India-Sri Lanka pact. Mr Premadasa said the coming of the IPKF to Sri Lanka was not connected with the devolution of power issue.

If that is the case, the president said, then they have to send foreign troops to all the eight provinces in the country where the devolution package applies. Besides this, everyone knows the much great pains the government took after he became president to devolve powers to the provincial councils despite opposition by certain parties. He added that no one could accuse the government that it did not take action to devolve powers though it is not at all connected with the presence of the IPKF.

Buddhist Monks Call For 'Action' Against IPKF

BK2407120789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's largest association of Buddhist monks Monday [24 July] called for a virtual war against Indian troops if they failed to vacate the island nation by Saturday.

The Sri Lanka National Bhikkhu (Monks) Federation said in a statement released here that it would approve "other avenues of action" to drive away the Indians if an "agitation", or peaceful campaign, was not successful.

"If agitation is not capable of expelling the army of occupation, we totally endorse other avenues of action to fulfil this task," it said. "We will also participate in such action."

"History has shown that people have been driven to take arms to expel invaders," added the statement, distributed to reporters on the inaugural day of the federation's second annual congress attended by some 5,000 monks.

"The Indian Army should leave our shores on the 29th of July," it said. "If not, we have to take steps to mete out the necessary treatment due to a foreign invader."

A federation spokesman, a young monk dressed in saffron robes, said that President Ranasinghe Premadasa did not appear to be sincere in his call for a withdrawal of the estimated 45,000 Indian peacekeeping troops.

"Once he says they should go, then he says they can stay in barracks," said the spokesman, declining to give his name. "He is going back on his words."

Asked if he favoured people taking arms against the Indian Army, he said: "If an armed struggle is required for people's freedom, the Bhikkhu Federation approves of it."

Mr. Premadasa, who came to power in December, has asked the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to quit his country by July 29, the second anniversary of a peace accord between New Delhi and Colombo which brought the troops to Sri Lanka.

India has rejected the demand, saying it wants discussions on the subject.

The federation also asked Sri Lankan troops not to massacre "patriots", a term used for anti-government Sinhalese militants by their sympathisers, and instead "divert their energies against the Indian invaders".

Buddhism is Sri Lanka's majority religion, practised by the Sinhalese community. Hundreds of saffron-clad monks took to the streets in protest after India and Sri Lanka signed the 1987 peace pact to end Tamil separatism. [passage omitted]

The statement also accused India of fuelling Sri Lanka's Tamil ethnic conflict by "hosting, training and financing" Tamil separatist guerrillas, who were based in southern India till the peace accord was signed.

It also attacked Mr. Premadasa for unleashing "terror and repression" on the people and for alleged mass killing and arrests of students and Buddhist monks, reportedly linked to the anti-government Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

The statement said Sri Lanka was facing "a grave situation" because of "internal problems as well as the threat posed by India to invade our country". It added: "The important question is how to protect our motherland from the invader. We vow to take part in this national struggle."

The federation said it was submitting to the government 18 demands, including a withdrawal of Indian troops, abrogation of the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord and a foreign policy which ensures "international friendship and sovereignty".

Tamil-Sponsored Strike Paralyzes Trincomalee

BK2507063289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (AFP)—A general strike called by a Tamil group to commemmorate a prison massacre crippled Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee port town Tuesday, residents said.

Government offices, shops and business establishments were shut while private as well as government-owned transport stayed off the roads in response to the strike appeal by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), the residents said over the telephone.

The protest was called in the memory of 53 Tamils, including three senior leaders of the TELO, who were massacred in Colombo's maximum security Welikade prison by other inmates on June [month as received] 25, 1983 during anti-Tamil riots.

"Everything is closed today, absolutely everything," said a resident from Trincomalee, which hosts the headquarters of a provincial government governing the Tamil-populated northeastern region.

Residents said the strike was peaceful and that Indian troops, deployed in the region under a 1987 peace accord, were patrolling the streets both on foot and in vehicles.

The TELO is a separatist group-turned-political party which has two members in the Sri Lankan Parliament.

Parliament Extends State of Emergency 1 Month

BK2207112889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The resolution to extend the state of emergency by a further month was passed in the Sri Lankan Parliament yesterday with a majority of 58 votes. The members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the United Socialist Alliance voted against the resolution, while the members of the other parties and independent groups were not present during the time of the vote.

Minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, winding up the debate said that the president had made it clear that if the Indian peacekeeping force is not withdrawn by the 29th of this month, these troops would be confined to barracks. He said although our country was small and our neighbor India was a big country, we have to safeguard our sovereignty. We should maintain the friendship we have with India for a long period. The government had to impose the emergency reluctantly. Mr Wijeratne said that during the last month the police and the Armed Forces used emergency powers sparingly.

Premadasa Letter to Gandhi Omits Withdrawal Date

BK2207144489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 22 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has renewed calls for the withdrawal of Indian troops, dubbing them an obstacle to peace and normalcy in his island nation.

In a letter to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, released here Saturday [22 July], he has warned that he would regard the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact as inimical to his country's interests if the troops stayed on against his wishes.

But Mr. Premadasa refrained, in his eight-page letter, from reiterating that the 45,000-strong Indian peace keeping force (IPKF), deployed under the accord, quit the Tamil-populated northeast by the end of this month.

The deadline, made public June 1, led to a diplomatic row with India, which rejected it and called for discussions on the subject.

Mr. Premadasa's letter, dated July 19, has been delivered to Mr. Gandhi, Indian diplomatic sources here said.

"The continued presence of the Indian Armed Forces is an obstacle to the restoration of peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka," the letter said, written in response to one from the Indian premier eight days earlier.

"It would be incompatible with the sovereignty of a state to concede a right for any alien armed force to operate within its territory contrary to the wishes of the head of state ... From whom such alien armed force is not taking orders," he added.

Mr. Premadasa said it would be "unlawful" for the IPKF to remain in Sri Lanka against Colombo's concurrence and added that the continued IPKF offensive against Tamil guerrillas amounted to "unlawful taking of civilian lives."

He added that if the Indian troops stayed against his wishes, "I as the president of an independent, sovereign republic, would have no option but to treat the (1987) agreement as being inimical to Sri Lanka's sovereignty and national interests." [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa, however, thanked India for dispatching the troops in July 1987 at Colombo's request and added: "We are sad that over a thousand Indian lives have been lost."

It is the first time that Mr. Premadasa, a known critic of the accord who became the president in December, has mourned the death of Indian troops, some 2,500 of whom have also been wounded in fighting against the LTTE.

But he also criticised the IPKF for failing to disarm the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] "even after two years", saying: "At the time of the signing of the (1987) agreement, it was envisaged that this process would not take more than five days." [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa reiterated his offer of a dialogue with India if New Delhi recommenced the process of the troop withdrawal, which was suspended after the president's June 1 pullout appeal.

Mr. Gandhi has said that the Indian military presence in Sri Lanka is necessary to ensure the devolution of power to a provincial government led by a Tamil political party in the island's northeast.

Mr. Premadasa, in his letter, once again rejected the argument.

"I wish to reiterate that I have at all times held the view that the problems of the Tamil linguistic groups in Sri Lanka should be resolved, not by the use of force but by consultation, compromise and consensus."

"The events of the past months have proved the wisdom of my approach."

The reference was to peace talks the LTTE initiated with the Sri Lankan Government in April bypassing New Delhi, which since 1983 has acted as a mediator in the island's bloody Tamil ethnic conflict.